

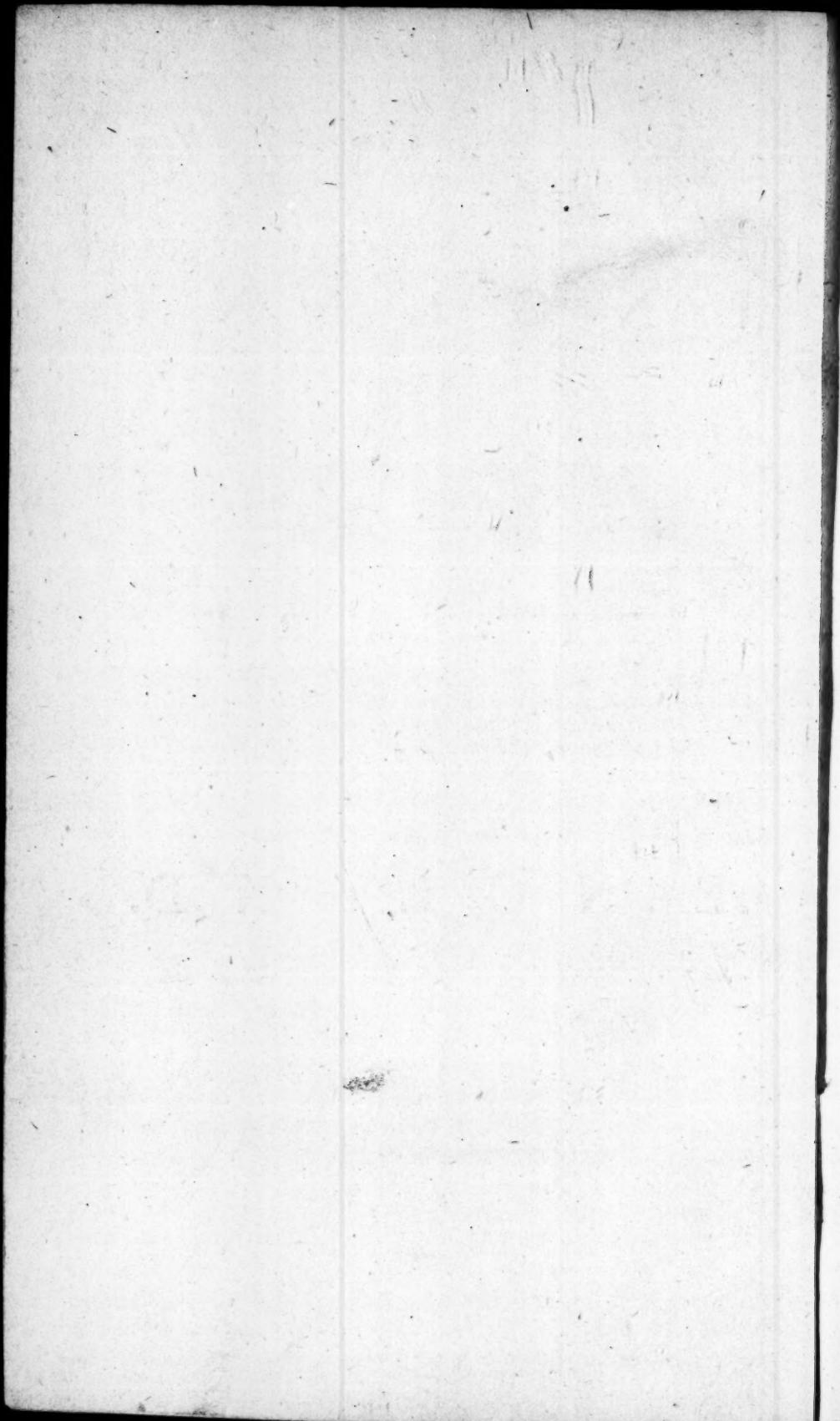
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O F
E N G L A N D:
C O N T A I N I N G
A DESCRIPTION OF THE LAWS, CUSTOMS, AND
MANNERS OF ENGLAND.

Interspersed with curious and interesting Anecdotes of

Present King of Denmark	General Smith	Mrs. Abington
Prince of Wales	Lord Camden	Mr. Wedgewood
Late Empress Maria Theresa	Lord Thurlow	Chevalier D'Eon
Louis XV.	Lord Kenyon	Lord Stormont
Duke de Choiseul	Duke of Bridgewater	Mr. Villette
Late Duke of Bedford	Lord Chatham	General Ganfell
Duchess Dowager of Bedford	Lord Sackville	Late Mr. Garrick
Duke of Northumberland	General Burgoyne	Mr. Foote
Duchess of Devonshire	Mr. Luttrell	Mrs. Cornellys
Lord Bute	Mr. Wilkes, and se- veral other Alder- men	Mrs. Siddons
Lord North	Mr. Burke	Barry
Lord Mansfield	Mr. Horne Tooke	Woodward
Mr. Fox	Late Lord Clive	Weston
Mr. Pitt	Mr. Gibbon	Henderson
Lord Sandwich		Palmer
Admiral Keppel		Mr. Kelly, &c. &c. &c.

By M. D'A R C H E N H O L Z,
Formerly a Captain in the Service of the King of Prussia.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

V O L. I.

L O N D O N:

Printed for EDWARD JEFFERY, Pall-Mall.

MDCCLXXXIX.



TO

EDWARD FISHWICK, Esq.

WHOSE NUMEROUS VIRTUES, AND AMIABLE
MANNERS,

HAVE GAINED HIM

THE FRIENDSHIP, APPROBATION, AND ESTEEM
OF ALL HIS ACQUAINTANCES,

THIS BOOK, ENTITLED

A PICTURE OF ENGLAND,

IS DEDICATED.

BY

THE TRANSLATOR.



C O N T E N T S.

O F

V O L U M E I.

C H A P T E R I.

*VIEW of Great Britain—Manner of thinking in
England—Privileges and Liberty of the Nation—
Courts of Justice—Duchess of Kingston—Colonel
de la Motte—General Elections—Rights of the
Sovereign—Outlines of the Character of Geo. III.
—Ministerial Projects—Lord George Germaine—
National Opinions of Equality, Honour, Dis-
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General Burgoyne—Saratoga — Page I*

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Liberty of the Press—Newspapers—Letters of
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A

PICTURE

OF

ENGLAND.

CHAPTER I.

View of Great Britain—Manner of thinking in England—Privileges and Liberty of the Nation—Courts of Justice—Duchess of Kingston—Colonel de la Mothe—General Elections—Rights of the Sovereign—Outlines of the Character of Geo. III. Ministerial Projects—Lord George Germaine—National Opinions of Equality, Honour, Dishonour, and unequal Matches—Mr. Luttrell—General Burgoyne—Saratoga.

TH E island of Great Britain is so different from all the other states of Europe, in the form of its government, its laws, its customs, its manners, and the mode of thinking and of acting

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adopted

adopted by its inhabitants, that it seems rather to belong to some other globe than that on which we live. The contrast is uncommonly striking when one passes directly from France to England. On that occasion a stranger imagines himself transported to another planet, the voyage is so short, and performed in such a small space of time.

No country in the world ought more to interest the philosophical observer than that kingdom, of which so much is said and so little understood. This indeed will be always the opinion of every impartial man, who has resided there sufficiently long to learn the language of the country, and acquire the knowledge necessary to form a proper opinion.

The uncommon revolution that has taken place in England within the two last centuries, in the manners, the sciences and the arts, in commerce, religion, and above all in the political constitution, is worthy of exciting the greatest astonishment. Notwithstanding the ancient privileges which the nation acquired with great difficulty, and which even in barbarous times assumed the name of liberty, the government was still tyrannical. Of this the history of the reign of Henry VIII. and of the cruel Mary his daughter, will furnish the most

most incontestable proofs. However, in more prosperous times, they passed rapidly from the extreme of oppression to the most unbridled liberty in both civil and religious affairs. It is out of the bosom of this independence that those characters arise whose originality so much surprises us. A rich Englishman, and in general every inhabitant of that fortunate island, knows no other restraint on his conduct than the laws, and his own inclination.—If he does not infringe on the jurisprudence of his country, he is entirely master of his own actions. From thence proceed those numerous follies, and those extravagancies, at which the nations among whom they are unknown seem so much shocked, for want of being able to investigate the cause, which would make them rather astonished that they are not more numerous. *The opinion of the world*, so formidable in other countries, is there disregarded. Nobody consults any thing but his own judgment; and they all despise the sentiments of those from whom they have nothing either to hope or to fear.

There, as every where else, they laugh at a ridiculous person, but they treat him with a great deal of indulgence; and they do not esteem a gentleman less on account of his oddity, provided he hurts no one; for it is one of the particular features of

an Englishman's character, never to lose sight of the laws of his country. I shall hereafter shew, by means of the most remarkable examples, the influence that this has on the national character.

The English have adopted in their literature this liberty, or rather this propriety of thinking and of acting ; and it is to this that we are indebted for so many bold systems, so many spirited and useful truths, with which their philosophers and mathematicians have enriched human nature. From thence also proceed that daring flight of genius, and those new paths which their historians and their poets have opened, and with which they have as it were enlarged the world of ideas.

That country has so many attractions, that no stranger ever remains there any time without being attached to it by some secret charm : there are two things, however, first necessary ; the one, that he should understand English ; and the other, that he should have plenty of money, to enable him to live comfortably in a country where every thing is dear. He will then, whatever may be his taste, his age, or his manner of thinking, find every thing necessary to his satisfaction. This charm extends to all conditions, from the highest to the most wretched. During the residence of

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the present king of Denmark in France, all the arts were employed to amuse him : they made entertainments for him hitherto unknown ; they even illuminated the forests, to give him the pleasure of the chace by torch-light. Every witty expression which he said, or did not say, became at once the subject and the burthen of some new song. In one word, the nation strove on his account to metamorphose Paris into an Elysium. Nevertheless London, where he enjoyed none of these pleasures, where no one, not even a common sailor, gave the wall to him, appeared much more charming.

It is proved by more than one example, that those of the most distinguished rank are not always sorry to feel that they are but men. A powerful prince of the Empire, who was too conscious of his high birth to deign ever to forget it, happening to visit England, found the Britons treat him with less respect than he had experienced from his own subjects. He began at first to complain ; but reflecting that it was only what he had a right to expect, he ended by joking at the circumstance ; and although he had not afterwards any more occasion to be pleased with the attentions of the court than with the

politeness of the people, this did not prevent him from still thinking that his stay was agreeable.

The English themselves know so well how to appreciate the blessings enjoyed in their native country, that those malefactors who conceive the slightest hope of escaping from punishment, rather choose to be exposed to the perils attendant on a criminal process than to expatriate themselves. Exile is, in their eyes, a species of death little less dreadful than a violent end ; for one always sees, at their public executions, wretches who might have easily escaped by flight.

Notwithstanding that this country differs in so many respects from all others, and, according to the opinion of Montesquieu, is blessed with a more perfect government than any other ; yet it so happens that its excellence is little known, nay is often abused, even by those who pass for philosophers. From hence proceed those foolish doubts concerning the preference of an absolute monarchy, or a limited one like that of Great Britain. I envy not any man those chains which he glories in : by comparison they may appear light, and even honourable ; but he must surely not

not only be unjust, but even mad, who wishes, by means of sophistry, to raise the condition of the subject of a monarchy above that of an Englishman.

Whoever will take the trouble to read the astonishing actions, recounted in this work, when I treat of the constitution, the laws, and the general welfare, will then perhaps cease to think the following speech of the nabob of Arcot hyperbolical, on introducing colonel Smith to the victorious soubah of the Decan : “ Great “ prince ! receive my present : it is a warrior “ with whom I give you the friendship of the “ English, who are a nation of kings !”

A German philosopher, of whom I shall hereafter make mention, gives this excellent definition of political liberty : “ I call that state free,” says he, “ where there is no greater restraint on “ human actions, than what is absolutely neces-
“ sary for the preservation of the commonwealth ; “ a state where nothing is regulated with par-
“ tiality, but by general acquiescence, and with
“ the full view of augmenting the general good ; “ a state which, in the privileges of any indivi-
“ dual or any condition, has no respect but for
“ the most distinguished merit ; a state, in one

" word, where the greatest powers can at once dis-
 " play themselves, and act in concert." I shall
 prove, by incontestable facts, that all this is
 more peculiar to England than any other coun-
 try.

Notwithstanding the intestine dissensions inevitable in a republic, and which even appear necessary to its preservation, since, furnishing food to the democratical spirit, they keep the state in health by giving it life and activity; notwithstanding the unhappy issue of the American war; notwithstanding the enormous debt and devouring luxury of the nation; in fine, notwithstanding all the vices and imperfections which are the unhappy lot of human nature; the people of England still possess a felicity worthy to be envied, and of which perhaps other nations can scarce have a conception: so difficult it is, in living under the mildest yoke, to form just ideas of a national liberty grounded on the rights of humanity.

Nothing ever appeared more jocular to the English than that passage in the manifesto of France, published at the beginning of the last war, where it is said, " that the most christian king found himself under the necessity of protecting the Americans, whose *liberty and privi-*
" leges

"leges had been attacked." In their answer, the ministry did not testify a small share of astonishment, that they should make use of expressions in France which could not in that kingdom be understood.

It is a truth which will not admit of doubt, that no polished nation was ever so free as the English are at this day ; and those who are acquainted with the constitution of ancient and modern kingdoms will not hesitate to subscribe to this opinion. We cannot but pardon his patriotism, when a Dutchman or a Swiss flatters himself with possessing as much liberty as an Englishman. A succinct account of British liberty, by affording a comparison, will render my argument apparent.

Without mentioning the great number of franchises and immunities of every kind, which the great charter and many favourable revolutions have at different times procured to the nation, we may arrange the rights of the people under six classes, viz.

The Liberty of the Press,
The Habeas Corpus Act,
Public Courts of Justice,

The Trial by Jury,
 The Right of being represented in Parliament,
 The Privilege of Public Remonstrances.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

It is with great reason that the English boast of the liberty of the press, and regard it as the *palladium* or safe-guard of their civil liberty. It is true that it is often abused by the publication of foolish pafquinades, and shameful libels; but this inconvenience is amply indemnified by the immense advantages produced from it*.

The most hardened servant of the crown, who in the cabinet and in parliament blushes not to propose the most pernicious plans, and who knows how to endure with the utmost coolness the most outrageous contradictions and reproaches, is stopped in the midst of his audacious enterprises by the public voice. Hitherto no English

* I must say, to the honour of our country, that, except England, there is no other kingdom in the world where an honest man may write so many bold truths, and discover so many abuses, as in Germany.

minister

minister has dared to forget or despise this voice. It is this which often renders his bad designs abortive, and destroys his best concerted projects.

The liberty of the press is also favourable to those popular assemblies so necessary in a free state; for the newspapers inform the public of the time, the place, and generally the object of those meetings, which they detail in a particular manner to the whole nation. In them every one enjoys the most entire liberty of speech; the members of parliament themselves, who often go to them, sometimes find matters better discussed there than in either house of parliament. The statesman whose measures have been disapproved, and the minister who has been dismissed, there find a free access; there they employ their friends and their credit, and bring all the arts they are masters of into play to gain the people to their interests.

Without the liberty of the press, it would have been impossible for a state in which the king is the disposer of all the offices, dignities, and in a manner of all the riches of the country, to have maintained its independence so long. The most insignificant attempt of a minister, which in its remotest consequence gives an appearance of a

design on the national liberty, immediately sets the nation in movement; the people become clamorous; the minister trembles, and the project is abandoned. If the public were less attentive to trifles, the crown would soon extend its prerogative, and at last insensibly arrive at the end which it aims at—absolute power.

HABEAS CORPUS ACT.

This shelters the lowest subject in the state from oppression. By means of this, neither the minister, nor even the king himself, can keep any Englishman in prison if the cause of his detention is not assigned in a few days; it also provides that he shall be produced before some public tribunal, face to face with his accuser. By its means, one of the lowest of the people is perfectly secure against the greatest grandee in the state, although he may be aided by the sovereign authority. Can there be a greater contrast, than betwixt this act and the famous lettres de-câchet, of which the ministers of France were hitherto so prodigal? It was sufficient to have offended the under clerk of some statesman, to have been sent to the Bastile and buried alive. If we may believe Linguet, this infernal custom is still

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in vogue. This singular man, during his first visit to England, tortured his genius to abuse in his Annals the liberty enjoyed by the English. Now better instructed in the school of the Bastile, he thinks differently, and regards England as the most sacred asylum. He publicly deplores his foolish patriotism, and assures us in this Journal that his cure is radical.

By means of the history of Wilkes, in part forgotten, and in part unknown in Germany, I shall hereafter shew the great advantages of the act in question.

PUBLIC COURTS OF JUSTICE.

These are a necessary appendage to a free state. In ancient Greece and Rome, all suits and processes were discussed and determined in public. In such a situation it is difficult to be evidently unjust, when the auditory consists of a whole people, who observe the slightest action and censure the least improper word. There never was any judge but the decemvir Appius, so audacious as to bully a whole nation, and become guilty of an open injustice.

During the process against the duchess of Kingston

Kingston in 1777, a circumstance occurred which clearly demonstrates the excellence of a public trial. This lady being the wife of a peer of the realm, was consequently tried before the House of Lords. All the peers of England were her judges, under the direction of a lord high steward named for that purpose by the king, his dignity ending with the trial. The theatre of this august scene was Westminster-hall, whose spacious inclosure was not sufficient for the crowd of spectators. The principal evidence on the side of the duchess was a bed-ridden old man, whom it was impossible to carry out of his chamber. However, the deposition of this man was so favourable to the duchess, that it was indispensably necessary towards the gaining of her cause. What was to be done? She demanded of her judges, that they would please to appoint a judicial deputation to receive his testimony at his own house. This was indeed a favour uncommon in England: it appeared, however, so equitable to a number of the peers, that they were about to make a decree to that purpose.

The earl of Mansfield, lord chief justice of England, a man, who to the eloquence of Cicero unites the most profound knowledge of the laws of his country, seeing the intention of the house,
rose

rose from his seat. After having informed them that it was his wish to allow to the accused all proper means of justification, he painted in the most lively colours the prejudicial consequences of such an illegal favour ; he observed, that a precedent like this, the authority of which is always so powerful in the English courts of law, would induce and even oblige them to consent to similar demands ; that, in all processes of great importance, there are sick witnesses who wish to be privately examined ; and would it not be easy, added he, to deceive or seduce a small number of men entrusted with such a commission, or even perhaps to procure the election to fall on a chosen few ? He ended by saying, that this innovation would open the door to venality and seduction ; that it would give a mortal stroke to the national liberty ; that it would endanger the right of property so sacred in this island, and even the lives of their fellow citizens.

To comprehend the force of this reasoning it is necessary to observe, that in all the English courts of justice the sentence almost entirely depends on the deposition of witnesses, and that the oral testimony of one single evidence is of more avail than a thousand documents. The speech of lord Mansfield made the most lively impression on his

his audience. Those of the peers who were the most zealous friends of the duchess immediately desisted from their demand, and her eloquent defenders became silent. Was not this an interesting scene to a philosophical observer?

TRIAL BY JURY.

Twelve sworn citizens, whom they call a jury, give judgment in all the courts of justice. They actually acquit or condemn. It is true, they are assisted by one or more judges, whose business it is to hear the witnesses, take care of the legality of the procedure, sum up the evidence, and pronounce the sentence according to the tenor of the law. Besides this, to prevent the inconvenience that must naturally arise from the pretended criminal's being dragged before a court of justice on slight suspicions, every accusation is first examined by a grand jury, whose decision either annihilates or continues the process. The petty juries, who give a final sentence, must be unanimous, and are shut up in a chamber until they bring in their verdict: on the other hand, the proceedings of the grand jury are regulated by a plurality of voices. If one of the twelve jury-men dies, after the arraignment and before the conviction of the supposed criminal, he is immediately

mediately released, because no person can be tried twice for the same offence.

The great impartiality of the English courts of justice is interwoven with the very constitution of the government. Never has the most powerful minister, however great his authority, or however profligate his conduct, attempted to bid defiance to the laws. Whatever may be his power, and however numerous his adherents, if he but attempt to oppress the least of his fellow-citizens, a process will immediately issue against him, and he will be obliged to appear before the judges in person. Whoever knows the value of such an inestimable privilege, will not fail to admire the administration of justice in England, which can never indeed be imitated but in a state equally free.

Every inhabitant house-keeper, at the end of two years, is obliged to undertake in his turn certain parochial employments gratis, and is also to serve on juries. Foreigners, although they have not been naturalized, are likewise liable to these offices as well as the natives. The twelve necessary for the determination of any process, are chosen out of a very large number; which renders intrigues impossible; and indeed there has been

been no example of an attempt of this kind. By these means, the trials are at once quick and impartial. Linguet himself, who before he sinarted for his patriotism, had undertaken the task of reviling every thing in England, was forced against his own inclination to pay to these juridical customs the tribute of his admiration. In a criminal trial, if the accused be a foreigner, the jury is composed of six Englishmen and six foreigners, whose names are communicated to him before hand, to the end that he may be enabled to reject, without explaining his reasons, any of them whom he suspects to be his enemies.

Nothing is more astonishing than the mildness and humanity with which criminals are here treated, whether they be thieves, murderers, or incendiaries. Even if their guilt is evident, the bar, the jury, and the judges, all seem to conspire for their acquittal. They search the indictment for some trifling fault that may render it equivocal; a false surname, an indeterminate date, a single letter omitted; all these are fatal to the process, and will immediately put an end to it. The counsel defend the culprit with zeal, and the witnesses against him are questioned with much strictness, and sometimes with much severity. His own confession is never demanded, and he can be convicted

victed by the evidence of credible witnesses alone. It is repugnant to human nature to see a man bear testimony against himself; and this philosophical maxim affords a strange contrast to the practice of those tribunals of which torture is the grand resource. When all the evidence is ended, it is permitted the accused to make his defence; and the greatest attention is paid to every thing he says. If he is found guilty, a judge announces to him the punishment which the law inflicts on his offence, in a speech which, so far from being composed of reproachful and reviling words, is generally filled with tender and compassionate expressions.

Colonel de la Mothe, the French spy, executed at London in 1782, who in his own country had been considered as a despicable wretch, was not a little surprised at the indulgence he experienced here. They sent to him while in prison the heads of the accusation, that he might have time to prepare an answer. The most celebrated advocates undertook his defence without any fee. He received a list of the jury who were to try him; and, in a word, he was treated in such a manner as if the public welfare was interested in his preservation. The presiding judge, after having with great mildness stated the care which

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the laws had shewn to his situation, ended with these words : “ It is thus, sir, that you have “ been used in a country, where you had no “ right to expect the least favour : but such are “ the customs of a people whose dearest interests “ you have attempted to invade.” Are not such examples sufficient to destroy those vulgar prejudices, by which we are taught to believe that the manners of the English are barbarous ? This is not the act of a few individuals; but of a nation, displayed in its constitution, its manners, its usages, and its laws. Whoever searches into facts, and examines them with attention, must perceive the superiority of the laws of England.

THE RIGHT OF BEING REPRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT.

Every freeholder, possessed of the annual rent of forty shillings per annum, has a right to vote at the election of the members of parliament for his own county. This right, however, is not always founded on the same claim, in the cities and boroughs. In some of them, every proprietor of a house has a vote ; in others, only the members of the corporation. Some are allowed to name representatives without possessing any land at all. The two universities of Oxford and

Cam-

Cambridge possess this privilege, merely from the respect that the nation pays to learning and the sciences.

The means of corruption give the court great influence at general elections: however, the last king could not prevent the patriotic party from making the most efficacious laws against this shameful abuse, which is still continued with impunity. For example, the candidate goes among the electors, buys all kinds of trifles, and pays for them very dearly; for instance, five guineas have been given for a whistle, a fowl, &c. &c. The shop-keepers know what this signifies, pocket the money, and give their votes in return. As this is entirely a matter of speculation, it often happens that the candidate wastes prodigious sums in vain, when the influence of his rival happens to be greater than his own. Fordyce the famous banker expended 30,000*l.* in an attempt of this kind; and then, imagining that injustice had been done him, had the folly to embark in a process equally expensive, in consequence of which many hundreds of the inhabitants were sent to London to appear as evidence. This second attempt, however, had the same fate as the first, and did not a little contribute to his total ruin. The regard in which a member of parliament is held

held there, and his influence on public affairs, more especially if he possesses eloquence—that eloquence which leads to the first offices of the state—have such powerful attractions to an Englishman, that they induce him to make astonishing efforts to obtain a place in the senate of his country. One of the principal reasons of modern venality proceeds from the great number of nabobs, who, on their return from India, attempt at any price to purchase a seat in parliament; and this is also the cause of the impunity which they experience, for the enormous crimes committed in that part of the world.

There cannot be a more astonishing contrast between any two civilized nations, than that with respect to Italy and England. The Italians celebrate almost every day in the year a religious holiday; the English, a political festival. The latter is as little known in Italy, as the former in England. Nothing is more common in that island than meetings, processions, and other testimonies of public joy, which interest in a very lively manner all those who are acquainted with the reasons of them; but the finest and most extraordinary of all is, without contradiction, a general election. One may then be-

hold the same scenes which were exhibited in ancient Rome, when the people chose their new magistrates. Those of the very first rank, who by their wealth and their talents deserve to be reckoned among the chief persons in the state, go about soliciting the meanest of the people for their votes—The handsome duchess of Devonshire herself was not ashamed to entreat the lowest shopkeepers in Westminster, in behalf of Mr. Fox. That charming lady's motive was not to oblige this unquiet and turbulent statesman, but to please the prince of Wales, who interested himself in his election.

The appointed day being arrived, all the electors assemble in bodies, and range themselves under their respective colours. The candidates walk in procession, accompanied by a crowd of their friends, and the different parties are distinguished from each other by the ribbands worn in their hats. Before each are carried colours, on which the name of the candidate and his device are painted. These processions, consisting of some thousands of men, and which, in London in particular, have always a hundred thousand spectators, are made without the assistance of armed soldiers, or the officers of justice, the presence

presence of whom is regarded as indispensable in other countries and who, for the most part, do more ill than good.

The candidates having ascended a kind of amphitheatre, covered with tapestry, and erected on purpose, harangue the people as the Roman orators did formerly in the forum. After this the names of the electors are registered without distinction of rank or age, and a majority of their votes determines the election of him who, by his new dignity, is empowered to watch over the interests and safety of the state, and to enact or annul the laws of his country. On these occasions, however great the tumult may be among a people who enjoy so much liberty, there very seldom happens any serious affray, so much difference is there between a people accustomed to abandon themselves entirely, and without fear, to the impulse of their own breasts, and those unfortunate men, who, bending under the yoke of a frightful despotism, fall into the most guilty excess the moment that they perceive their chains either broken or relaxed. One neither perceives the glittering of swords or of pistols in the political lists of the English, however great the animosity of the combatants.

The choice being made, the victorious candidate is brought to his own house in triumph. On his election Mr. Fox, in allusion to his support from the fair sex, dedicated a banner to them with this motto, “*Sacred to female patriotism.*”

I myself was present, and never beheld a spectacle which affected me so much, or which, in my opinion, was capable of conveying to the human mind such a noble degree of energy. A celebrated French author, who was also there, observes, “My satisfaction was complete, when I “recollected that this universal homage was paid “to a simple individual, without dignities and “without power, supported only by his own “courage, his own zeal, and the attachment of “his friends; that the same man, the object of “this cavalcade and of these honours, thus re-“compensed for his services to the people, and “his opposition to the ministers of the crown, “would, in every other country, have groaned “under persecutions; that he would, perhaps, “have terminated his life in a dungeon; that “in place of this pomp, which seemed to elevate “him above mortality, an arbitrary order would “have precipitated him, with the greatest igno-“miny, into the abysses of a Bastile or a Spandau, “or exiled him into the deserts of Siberia. What

“ a lesson ! How truly does it justify the pride
 “ of Englishmen ! How well does it excuse that
 “ preference which so many great men have even
 “ involuntarily given to their constitution above
 “ all others ! ”

It is a certain fact, that those elections greatly augment the haughtiness of the English, and inspire them with high ideas of equality. I was witness, at a contest for the town of Newcastle, to a very singular circumstance. Two candidates had offered themselves for this place: the one was the friend and relation of the late duke of Northumberland, who went there on purpose to assist him, and engage the people in his interests: the other was patronized by a merchant of London, of the name of Smith, who had acquired a fortune of 100,000l. in the coal-trade, and had a considerable interest among the inhabitants. The duke of Northumberland, who, besides the advantages of his rank and fortune, had also occupied some of the most distinguished situations in the state, did not imagine that such a man could oppose him with any probability of success. However, on his arrival at Newcastle he was soon convinced of his mistake. In consequence of this he sent for Mr. Smith, who observed, that he had no business with the duke, and that his

grace

grace must wait upon him. The duke actually complied, and said, that if he would allow his relation to represent the borough, his friend should be returned for a town in the neighbourhood that was entirely at his own disposal. Smith upon this roughly refused his grace's proposition, saying, "I have promised my friend that he shall represent this place, and no other; and I am not in the habits of breaking my word." "Very well," replied the duke, "it only remains that we should try our strength," and immediately departed. In fine, each used his utmost efforts; but the coal-merchant's candidate was elected in spite of all the interest of the lord lieutenant of the county, whose little credit became the subject of ridicule.

In regard to parliament, the great abuse consists in the inequality of the representation of the people in the House of Commons. Venality exists but in a small degree in the great cities, and is but of little consequence. What man is able to corrupt an almost innumerable crowd, who live at their ease, who are as rich, and oftentimes more so, than the candidates who solicit them? It was a project truly patriotic, and well worthy of the son of the great William Pitt, to attempt

a reformation in regard to the little boroughs. Is it not the height of folly to behold towns which have 40,000 inhabitants, and sometimes even more, without a single member, while a few miserable hamlets have a representation equal to the most considerable cities? London, which ought to send forty members, sends only four. Manchester, Birmingham, and a great number of other places whose manufactures and commerce render England so flourishing, send not even one. This scheme of Mr. Pitt, which tended to support the political constitution of his country, then on the brink of ruin, was evidently dictated by the greatest propriety. Lord North and his colleagues, however, opposed him: for corruption would have been annihilated, and all their power had this fatal system for its basis. As long as the sovereign does not seek to extend the privileges of the crown so as to infringe on the constitution, this reformation can never do him any hurt. During the glorious administration of the immortal Chatham, he never had recourse to ministerial authority or the tricks of office; he scorned the arts of influence and corruption.

PRIVILEGE OF PUBLIC REMONSTRANCES.

In the year 1775, the king wished that a criminal condemned to death should not suffer at Tyburn, but be executed out of town, and before the very house where he had committed the burglary. His majesty's desire was notified accordingly by the secretary of state to the sheriffs of the county of Middlesex. In all other countries, they would have regarded with mere indifference the place where the culprit was to have been executed; but they think differently in England. The sheriffs refused to obey. An order drawn up with more precision had not a better effect; on the contrary, they presented an humble remonstrance to the king, wherein they gave the most solid reasons for their disobedience. They said, among other things, that if the place of punishment was changed at pleasure, this would by and by produce an abuse which would sap the fundamental laws of the realm. These executions might be made, sometimes in town, sometimes in the country; in a public place, in this or that street, and at last even in a house; from whence it would happen, that they might soon

cease to be public, a circumstance so necessary in a free country. The sheriffs accordingly persisted in their refusal, and their conduct well deserved the thanks of the whole nation.

They are deceived who imagine that the situation of a king of England is disagreeable : on the contrary, if it were ever possible that a crown could confer happiness on the wearer, a sovereign of England, *if he so inclines*, may enjoy this advantage in a peculiar manner. He possesses great and extraordinary privileges ; indeed, the chief magistrate of no free people, either ancient or modern, ever had such extensive rights. Without appealing to remote times, let us only mention the stadholders of Holland, the predecessors of the present king of Sweden, and the sovereigns of Poland ; with these let us compare an English monarch, and we shall immediately perceive the difference.

He is empowered, without consulting his
parlia-

parliament, to contract alliances, to declare war, and to make peace; to receive and appoint ambassadors and ministers, and to enlist troops: he can assemble parliament when he pleases, prorogue it, appoint the place for it to meet in, and even dissolve it entirely. All new laws must have his sanction: if they have been acceded to by both the other branches of the legislature, the refusal of his consent immediately annihilates them; nor is it necessary that he should assign any reason for his conduct. He possesses the exclusive privilege of appointing the officers by sea and land; the magistrates, the ministers, the judges of the crown; the archbishops, bishops, and other ecclesiastics: he can enoble; grant a pardon to criminals; found universities, colleges, hospitals, and establish fairs: he has the sole privilege of issuing proclamations: he is the guardian of all the fools in the kingdom, and he inherits the estates of all those who die without heirs. All the wrecks of which the owners are unknown belong to him, as well as the land left by the receding of the ocean. He can enact ecclesiastical laws, establish ceremonies for the church, convoke provincial and national synods, &c. When a king of England is contented with the peaceable enjoyment of these eminent advan-

tages, without trenching on those of the nation, he may entirely confide in the administration of his ministers, who are answerable for every thing. “*That the king can do no wrong,*” is a maxim among the English ministers.

As the attacks upon them are almost always accompanied with the most poignant personalities, it is evident that a great portion of phlegm is in this country one of the greatest virtues in a minister. Lord North possessed this in an eminent degree. During his long administration he seems to have adopted the principle of the duke of Orleans, regent of France: “Let ‘them speak as long as they allow us to act.’” It is asserted, that a party in opposition to the court is absolutely necessary in the English parliament: this is what made the celebrated Sir Robert Walpole affirm, “That if ‘such a party had not been already formed, he ‘would have raised one with the public money.’”

The least personal offence offered to the king, is high treason. He himself is so little bound down in the exercise of his prerogative, that, without consulting any one, he can appoint a common sailor to be lord high admiral of England, and translate a country curate to the see of Canterbury.

Canterbury. But if the power of the sovereign is unbounded in doing good, on the other hand it is strictly limited as to evil. He dares not, without infringing the laws, command one of his postillions to be chastised. Neither can he tack conditions to the favours which he grants; nor add to the quantum of punishment which he orders to be inflicted.

"This line of demarcation is without doubt the groundwork of the constitution. The sovereign, having the executive power in his own hands, can apply to the management of public affairs both with celerity and dispatch, and exhibit a salutary uniformity in the exercise of the laws. When we compare with this the slowness and prolixity with which other free states manage their affairs, we shall perceive the numerous advantages resulting from such a constitution."

At no period since the Revolution, have so many and such successful attempts been made in favour of the prerogative as during the present reign. From the commencement of lord North's administration, till his dismission in 1782, the parliament was entirely governed by the crown, and every proposition of the minister confirmed by a decided majority. Such a constant acqui-

scence on the part of the Commons, and that too at a time when the people were discontented, is a circumstance unexampled in their history. The character of the sovereign was the sole cause of this. It is also probable, that it was a trait of this singular character which seldom occurs in a subject, and still less frequently on a throne, that gave to lord Bute such an ascendancy over him. This nobleman, who at the beginning of the present reign was placed at the head of affairs, is, perhaps, the sole cause of all the misfortunes which have happened to England for these last twenty years.

Without being either generous or attached to wealth, the king has nevertheless a decided aversion to luxury. No sovereign in Europe is so badly lodged, keeps so poor a table, or sacrifices so little to his pleasures. The œconomy of the court is such, that I myself was present at a ball at St. James's, when the apartments were lighted with tallow candles, which for a long time have been banished from all the genteel houses in London.

With a revenue of 900,000 l. sterl^{ing} per annum, which belongs to the civil list, to which may be added 300,000 l. arising from his foreign dominions

dominions and other contingencies, one may be tempted to imagine that the king possesses immense treasures *, notwithstanding he seems, from time to time, to be overwhelmed with debts, which the parliament is obliged to pay. Behold then that enigma explained, without which it would have been necessary to have added a commentary.

Lord North adopted the plan of the earl of Bute, and, during eleven years of a shameful administration, precipitated his country, from the flourishing state in which he found it, into the unhappy condition in which it still languishes. This statesman is not eminent for his eloquence, and far less for the greatness of his designs ; but he excels in little artifices, and talents peculiarly calculated for intrigue. By means of these he at last governed the parliament, and realized his own projects of ambition. He was seconded in all his schemes by the other ministers, who were in every point of view worthy of their chief. Who has not heard of a Germaine, branded and dishonoured by a council of war, a Sandwich,

* Certain circumstances have occurred since the publication of the original, which fully confirm the conjectures of M: d'Archenthalz.

a Rigby, and many others, whose real characters the king alone seemed to be unacquainted with ? A writer of some celebrity has attempted to investigate the reasons, and has narrated a number of singular anecdotes to explain the cause of the reciprocal aversion that now exists between the king and lord North. It is, however, unnecessary to search for the secret and extraordinary reasons of an enmity, of which the motives are so perceptible.

The king for a long time imagined, that he at last possessed in his lordship a minister who was attached to his interests; and he could not be persuaded to the contrary, so long as his lordship was at the head of affairs : he was, however, scarcely dismissed, when his majesty received the most convincing proofs of his venal administration. The esteem which the sovereign had till that moment entertained for him, immediately changed to contempt ; and this change was the more insupportable to the ex-minister, as he had received hopes that he might one day be again admitted into power. On this he immediately threw off his disguise, and shewed himself, as it were for the first time, in his own proper form.

The idea of liberty, and the consciousness of protection

protection from the laws, are the reasons why the people in general testify but little respect for their superiors, and even for those in the highest offices, unless they have acquired their affections by affable and popular manners. That perfect equality, with which nature has formed mankind, is apparent in all the words and actions of these proud islanders; neither dignities nor riches are able to efface it. The very majesty of the throne is not always sufficiently respected. The English consider the sovereign as only the first magistrate in their service.

The nobility, who in all other countries claim respect and submission from their inferiors, dare not form such pretensions there. The spirit of liberty, which that class of men suck in with their very milk, teaches them to regard all the privileges of their fellow subjects as sacred.

No minister (notwithstanding the very caprices of such men often decide in other countries the fate of a whole nation), no grandee of the kingdom, will pretend to make any of the populace give way to him in the street; and, notwithstanding this, they every day walk through the most crowded parts of the metropolis, where they find themselves splashed, squeezed, and elbowed,

without having the least wish to complain. The vainest Englishman will converse freely with the lowest of his fellow-citizens ; he will take part in their diversions ; and as in England they do not measure the difference of conditions by our scale, it is not at all unusual to see two persons quarrelling, between whose situations in life there is the greatest disparity.

It is true, that those of the first rank in the state have occasion for the good offices of the lowest of its members, to enable them to realize their ambitious hopes ; and it is not at all rare, at the election of members of parliament, to see the poorest citizens receive letters from the most illustrious candidates, in which their votes are requested with the utmost obsequiousness ; and when they have yielded to these solicitations, they are always sure of receiving others expressive of thanks. Have we not lately beheld the duchess of Devonshire bestowing her gold and her kisses for this purpose ? that very duchess, of whom the celebrated Angelica Kauffman has said, that she looks so like one of the graces, as to realize in her own person all the ideas of the most fervid imagination.

This affectation of popularity, which so much astonishes

astonishes strangers, proceeds from the very nature of the constitution of a free state. The Greeks and the Romans experienced the same while their republics subsisted. Does it not proceed from this, that the nobility of England are the most intelligent in Europe? They converse familiarly with men of learning and artists, and recompense their labours in the most generous manner. But that which renders them the most worthy of praise, is the noble manner in which they support their disgrace at court: on these occasions the zeal and attachment of their friends, instead of being diminished, seems to be redoubled; and so far from losing them with the favour of the sovereign, they testify greater esteem and attachment than before. It was thus that lord Chatham, who was obliged to resign when the present king mounted the throne, was almost idolized by the people, who esteemed and loved him before he lost his place. His portrait was placed in every house as a tutelary divinity; the streets, the taverns, the coffee-houses, and the tea-gardens were called after his name, and the eye of every passenger was struck with inscriptions in honour of this great benefactor to the nation.

The English in general form a quite different idea

idea of honour and infamy from other Europeans. A man who is arrested and imprisoned does not experience any insult on that account, nor is the family of a criminal who has been put to death, ever rendered infamous. The last duke of Lancaster but one, espoused the daughter of an ostler; she survived him for some years with the title of duchess dowager. The honour of the duke was not impeached on this account, and the duchess continued to frequent court like any other lady of quality. A man of distinction retorts one insult by another, and pardons it without either being revenged, or fighting with the person who insults him. The late duke of Bedford, after having occupied the first situations in the state, was unmercifully horse-whipped at a horse-race*. Nevertheless, this did not prevent

* George II. was but imperfectly acquainted with the English language. Having received a letter from admiral Sir Edward Hawke, after his celebrated victory over the French fleet, in which he informed his majesty, in the blunt but expressive language of a British tar, that he had given the enemy a “DRUBBING;” the king requested of lord Chesterfield that he would explain the meaning of the word. The witty earl, at this question, pointing to the duke of Bedford, whose enemy he was, gravely assured his majesty, that no man in the kingdom could better satisfy his curiosity in regard to that article than his grace.

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him in 1762 from being appointed ambassador extraordinary to the court of France, where he signed the famous peace of Versailles. The populace among us, who possess a very different idea of honour, would not scruple to assert that this manner of thinking proceeds from a want of delicacy, and a prevalence of rude and savage manners. The philosopher, on the contrary, who is able to discover among the English a high degree of this very delicacy, who finds it carried even to the highest pitch of perfection, and who discovers no tincture of rudeness in the manners of this enlightened people—the philosopher, I say, will, like them, view the laws of honour in a different light.

Every subject in a monarchy trembles on account of the most trifling circumstance. The most indifferent action, a single word, sometimes even a supposition, are sufficient to deprive the miserable wretch of his subsistence; nay, it often costs him his fortune, sometimes his life. Upon the least of these events the welfare and existence of a family depend: they, therefore, affect an uncommon refinement in manners; and from thence it happens, that the most ridiculous prejudices often regulate the laws of that

that phantom to which they give the name of honour.

But in a republic, where these ideas lose a great deal of their force, where the citizen is ignorant of a thousand considerations of which the subject of a monarchy never dares to lose sight;—in a republic this is entirely different. It is to the Greeks and the Romans that I shall appeal: at a time when their civilization was at the highest degree of perfection, they thought exactly on that subject as the people of England do at the present day.

The English look on hypocrisy as the most despicable of all vices; and from this proceeds that boldness of speech, which, if not softened a little by the choice of expressions, would pass for rudeness. It is to their excellent constitution that they owe a frankness of character which is at once so rare and so inestimable, and which, among them, is generally accompanied with an unshaken courage and a determined resolution. It is not uncommon to hear expressions both in their courts of justice and in parliament, for which one would be tempted to imagine that the party attacked could never be revenged but by the blood of

of his adversary : these circumstances, however, are seldom attended with unhappy consequences. How, indeed, could the parliament of England exist without this ? The stranger who thinks that these sallies are blameable, has surely never reflected on the nature of a free senate, where the useful must necessarily be preferred to the agreeable ; where they do not meet to hear cold and formal speeches dictated by custom ; and where it is impossible for the true patriot, whose soul is filled with the importance of the subject, to moderate his eloquence, and confine himself within the uneasy shackles of a servile complaisance.

One of the most violent of these parliamentary orators is captain Luttrell, a younger brother of the duchess of Cumberland. This forgetfulness of all the laws of politeness was so common to him, that, in a speech in the year 1777, he concluded by wishing, that all kinds of barbarous and cruel tortures, which are the disgrace of nations where they are still practised, might be introduced into England, because lord North could not then escape the wheel ; and it would be, added he, “ a real pleasure for me to see his “ bones broken by the hands of the executioner.” Lord North, who was present, rose with

with his usual coolness, and contented himself by saying, with a sigh, "that he had better seize the present opportunity of speaking, before he should be put to the rack."

This same Mr. Luttrell, the very next year, was engaged in a new quarrel with lord George Germaine. This nobleman, who after the battle of Minden had been dishonoured by the sentence of a court-martial, knew so well how to procure again the favour of the then government, that, unhappily for his country, he was appointed to a place in the ministry, and formed that ridiculous plan of operations for general Burgoyne, which occasioned the loss of all his army at Saratoga. Luttrell reproached him in full parliament with having been declared infamous; asserted that he had behaved, during the German war, with all the cowardice of a woman; and accompanied these reproaches with so many acrimonious reflections, that at last old Germaine lost all patience: however, amidst all the transports of his rage, he contented himself with calling him a *buffoon*. His opponent's behaviour, however, was so contrary to the rules of the house, that it occasioned a great disturbance. Luttrell, who foresaw the consequence, left his seat, and mingled with the crowd in the gallery, from whence

whence he could hear what passed below. The speaker besought the members to help him to appease the tumult. Germaine acquiesces, but his adversary is gone. His absence augments the noise, until at last he is discovered. He is then ordered to descend;—he obeys, but refuses to make any apology to lord George Germaine. At this refusal, obstinately persisted in on his part, a member of parliament gives it as his opinion, that he ought to be sent to the Tower if he does not comply; but as it is impossible to put such a motion to the vote, without being seconded, and as no one was at this moment disposed to do so, Luttrell himself exclaims, “ *I second the motion.*” On this mutual excuses took place, and every thing remained quiet.

It is not at all uncommon to see two persons, who have been abusing each other, conversing in the most familiar manner after their departure from the house. It is only the heads of parties who are confined to rules, from which they never depart, and who detest each other with the utmost cordiality. The celebrated Edmund Burke, who has always shewn himself a man of principle, during the American war exhausted all the metaphors of his brilliant imagination against the administration which conducted it; he
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one day finished one of his violent speeches, with the most dreadful maledictions against the ministry, and assured them, that the first thing he would teach his grand-children, when they began to lisp, would be also to curse such wretches. After having pronounced these words of peace, he left the assembly.

The loss which the English supported with the greatest difficulty, during the whole American war, was that of their army at Saratoga; for they had conceived not only the highest opinion of it, but also of the general who had the command. The unhappy catastrophe attending its captivity, was also the cause why France threw off the mask, and declared the Americans a free people.

Burgoyne was permitted to return to Europe on his parole, to undertake his own defence; but was denied the liberty of seeing the sovereign, under pretence of being a prisoner. This circumstance was even urged to prevent him from taking his seat in the House of Commons: however, the latter attempt proved unsuccessful. Burgoyne there tried to justify his conduct, but in a general and vague manner, as he still wished to screen the ministers: they, however, being

anxious alone for their own preservation, kept no measures with him, and forced this unfortunate man, who is one of the few English officers who understand any thing of military tacticks, to resign all his employments.

Burgoyne upon this appealed to the nation at large, in a memorial which is a masterpiece, not only on account of the matter which it contains, but also from the affecting manner in which it is composed. In this production he fully develops the ignorance and baseness of the ministers. He had before represented the impossibility of penetrating with his little army through the woods of America; but so far from attending to his judicious remonstrances, they were pleased to reiterate their orders in the most positive terms to attempt the undertaking. Burgoyne was a soldier;—he saw himself ruined beyond hope, but he felt it his duty to obey. He imagined that, by thus sacrificing himself and his little army, the ministers intended to realise schemes of a much greater importance to the nation. As a citizen, his own private feelings were lost in the interests of the state; and as a warrior, he was obliged to console himself with the idea, that the
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bravest commanders had often experienced the same fate.

This production of general Burgoyne's, accompanied with documents which prove all that he has asserted, still remains unanswered.

CHAPTER II.

*National Pride—Character—Anecdote concerning
some German Emigrants—General Knowledge—
Liberty of the Press—Newspapers—Letters of
Junius—Mr. Horne Tooke—The Abuse of the
Public Prints—Their Utility—History and
Character of Mr. Wilkes—Alderman Crosby—
His Imprisonment in the Tower—His Release
and Triumph.*

TH E national pride of the English is a natural consequence of a political constitution, by which every citizen is exempted from any other dependence than that imposed by the laws.

This pride is carried among them to a great length. Indeed, how is it possible to know

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and to feel all the merit of such a system of liberty, without attaching an uncommon value to it? This same sentiment, with which we so violently reproach the English of the present times, has always been felt by the most enlightened nations in the world.

The Greeks and Romans carried it still farther. This laudable pride, which with them was united to a lively and fervid patriotism, occasioned those heroic actions which will for ever be engraved in the records of immortality. If the modern history of England be equally filled with glorious achievements, it is to a love of their country that all this ought to be ascribed; a love which, carried to the extreme, as it has been, by those haughty islanders, cannot be conceived without a certain degree of contempt for those nations who do not possess similar sensations.

This fault, if it is one, is still more common amongst the Spaniards than them; but being founded on no solid grounds, it has become very justly a subject of ridicule. The English themselves are hated on this account, although their very enemies, at the bottom of their hearts, pay tribute to their extraordinary merit.—Envy will

will glide into nations, as well as individuals.

There are, perhaps, no people in Europe who possess so much natural pride as the French : it will be easy, with a little penetration, to reconcile this with that urbanity and those polite manners for which they are so distinguished. It is under this mask that the fly Frenchman conceals those marks of envy with which he views his English neighbours.

It was this offensive pride of the English that so many nations strove to humble during the American war. Many, even of the states of Germany, among whom the spirit of imitation exercises such a despotic rule, that they neither think, live, nor exist but after the French, were animated with the same desire. They carried their madness so far as to forget the blood and the treasures, which that nation, in the present century, has sacrificed for the advantage and repose of their country. They even wished, without knowing why, to see the source of her greatness dried up.

It ought, however, to be remarked, that the
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principal members of the empire, guided by a more sound and judicious policy, trembled for England ; even Switzerland, which was neither connected with her by politics nor commerce, offered up continual vows for her preservation.

A traveller, more especially if he passes immediately from France into Great Britain, in looking for that politeness at once so splendid and so trifling, which he has been used to, will not fail to imagine the English rude and uncultivated ; and this merely because he does not give himself the trouble to search beyond the surface of their character.

Grosley, a member of the French academy, recounts, with some humour, in one of his letters, a circumstance that happened to him. He had gone to England, prejudiced with the idea, that he was about to visit the most unpolished nation in Europe. A few days after his arrival he went to the theatre. The pit was very crowded ; and being there alone, and exceedingly inquisitive, he began to recollect the little English of which he was master, and put several questions to the person next him. His

neighbour, who did not understand a word of the jargon which he uttered, rises precipitately, turns his back to him and departs. Grosley was but little surprised at this conduct, so extremely ungenteel in appearance, and which, for some moments, only served to confirm him in his former opinion : but he was soon put to the blush when he saw the Englishman return. This good-natured man had perceived at the other end of the pit, one of his friends who spoke French ; and having pierced the crowd which separated them, he returned with much difficulty, leading him in his hand.—I ask, whether this is true politeness or not? A Frenchmen, by paying him a handsome compliment, would have imagined that he had done enough ; the Englishman, on the contrary, thought that he ought to do more, and he accordingly did it. If it is then in actions, and not in simple words that real urbanity consists, one is obliged to confess that the English are the most polished nation in Europe.

The principle of such actions is there also more pure, because a beggar has no occasion to humble himself before the most wealthy, and a citizen in easy circumstances knows no bounds to his independence.

The moral character of the English has indeed degenerated, but, notwithstanding this, it is still estimable; for it is not from its parliaments, its oriental depredators, and the crews of its privateers, who all aim at a certain end, that we ought to judge of the nation. Many members of parliament aspire at eminent situations, and allow themselves to be corrupted; so also do the adventurers who leave Europe with an intention to plunder Asia; and it is the very nature of pirates to rob and slaughter.

Is it from the refuse of a community that we are to imbibe our opinions of the moral character of a people, or from a multitude of godlike actions, which are performed every day, by thousands in this island?

An extraordinary event, which occurred a few years since, will serve to elucidate the noble and generous manner of thinking among the English. The emigrations from the empire, of which such sad complaints are made, even at this day, and which are founded on reasons partly just, and partly imaginary, gave an opportunity to a German gentleman to form a very singular scheme.

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The name of this projector, and his intentions, are still unknown ; the arts also which he practised to put in execution such a well-concerted plan, are equally obscure : it is, however, certain that a common genius durst never imagine, far less be able to put in execution, an enterprise of this nature. In the year 1765, he went to England at the head of 800 adventurers, consisting of men, women, and children, whom he had collected in the Palatinate, Franconia, and Suabia, by promising them that they would be much more happy in the English colonies.

On their arrival at the port of London, this singular man disappeared, and has never since been heard of.

At once miserable and disappointed, these unfortunate wretches, neither knowing the language, nor being acquainted with any of the inhabitants, and with only a few rags to cover them, were entirely bewildered in that extensive capital. Without an asylum, without even bread for their children, who asked for it with the most piercing cries, they knew not to whom they could address themselves.

In hopes of a less cruel destiny, they lay down in the open air, in the midst of those streets nearest to the wharf where they had been landed. In every other city, even in Paris itself, the unexpected arrival of a colony of eight hundred persons, would have been talked of every where, and proper measures taken accordingly : but the landing of such a numerous body was for a long time unknown in London. The inhabitants, indeed, of that part of the town, and also the passengers, were greatly astonished at the appearance of this singular groupe, who bewailed their misfortunes in an unknown language ; but not being able to discover the cause, they gave themselves but little concern on the subject.

Two days passed in this manner, and these poor people remained exposed to the inclemency of the elements, and the cravings of hunger. Some died for want, on the third day. Their misery was now at the extreme, for their arrival was unknown any where else than in this little corner of the suburbs : not a single word of it had transpired either in the city or Westminster.

The inhabitants in the neighbourhood were not,

not, however, unfeeling spectators of so many calamities : they aided them as far as they were able ; but what are the feeble succours of poverty at such a crisis ? The bakers were accustomed to send their servants every morning loaded with baskets of bread, which they distributed according to the directions of their masters. One of these happening to pass near the place where these emigrants were encamped, heard that they had been several hours without any subsistence. " If it is so," says he, at the same time placing his pannier in the midst of them, " our customers must have patience to-day ; were my master to lose them all, he would not be angry. I will," added he, " aid these poor creatures if I pay for it out of my own wages." —I trust that the behaviour of this man does not need a commentary.

The reverend Mr. Waschel, a clergyman of the German church, who lived near to them, at last resolved to advertise this singular event in the newspapers. In a letter which he inserted, and which was signed with his own name, he particularizes, in a most affecting detail, the misery of his countrymen, and implores in their behalf the generous compassion of the English,

on which these wretches had so much relied when they left their native country. The effect of this was incredible and beyond expectation.

The morning papers are generally printed at eight o'clock; by nine a man arrives on horseback from one of the most distant parts of Westminster, and brings to Mr. Waschel a bank note for 100 l. sterling. The messenger would not mention the donor, but it was afterwards found to be the old countess of Chesterfield, who performed so charitable an action.

This might be called the earnest of the whole nation. It seemed to rain bank notes and guineas upon the good priest. Coffee-houses were opened for subscriptions, attendants were appointed to supply them with necessaries, as they themselves were not able to buy them; physicians and apothecaries were assigned, and nurses and interpreters appointed to them: in a word, the wants of this deserted band were satisfied, their forlorn situation removed, and they themselves inspired with the sweet hope of better prospects before the middle of that very day.

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In the mean time the subscriptions continued open, and there never, perhaps, was such a general contribution. There were but few rich people, of a certain rank, in all the kingdom, who did not assist on this occasion. I myself have read the list of those benefactors to my countrymen, and have counted more than twenty who gave a hundred pounds each, and some even more. The sum total is unknown to me; it was, however, sufficient to entertain this numerous body of people, during five months, in London; at the end of that period they were carried to Carolina, in vessels hired for the purpose, and provided with proper necessaries. They had a very excellent passage to America, and received, at the instant of their arrival, not only every thing necessary for their establishment, but also the remainder of the money which had been collected for them.

It may be imagined that the Germans, settled in London, shewed themselves equally generous towards their countrymen as the English.— Not only those in easy circumstances, but even opulent people, to whom the nation had confided the care of these unfortunate wretches, received money for their services out of the fund arising

from the subscriptions, and charged at the highest rate !

It has been observed that the common people in England are more intelligent and judicious than in any other country. The free and unrestrained manner in which they speak and write, on every subject, is the real cause of this. One is astonished to hear some of the very lowest of the populace reason concerning the laws, the right of property, privileges, &c.

If the English * newspapers generally contain a large portion of dull and trifling matter, on the other-hand they often abound with passages worthy to be read and preserved. Sometimes a politician will insert an essay on a subject which concerns the welfare of the whole nation, and every body, even a fish-woman, is able to comprehend it. It is not at all uncommon to observe such persons reading and commenting on the public prints.

Besides original intelligence, the prodigious

* In the year 1780, in London alone, 63,000 were printed every week.

number of advertisements make them entertaining, and are often attended with the strangest consequences.

I knew a woman who ran away from her husband after having robbed him. Without the assistance of the newspapers the despair of this repentant wife would have been unknown, and the dishonour of her spouse made public; but a lucky advertisement informed them of each other's situation, and their reconciliation was equally quick and secret. The husband having given out that his wife was gone into the country, addressed a letter to her, without either inserting her name or residence, but couched in such terms, that she could readily comprehend it. In this he promised to forget and forgive all that had happened; and she having accidentally read the paper, sent an answer by the same conveyance, mentioning her terms, and at the end of three days returned to him without having occasioned the least suspicion by her absence. The printer is paid for this kind of correspondence, and in general all articles which rather interest individuals than the public. He neither inquires concerning the name, the business, the intentions, or place of residence of the advertiser.

Those

Those speculations which are written on national affairs and articles of intelligence are inserted gratis. The author is always sure of remaining undiscovered by means of a box which opens towards the street, and through which any person may thrust a manuscript. If you choose to make yourself known to the printer, he is obliged to observe secrecy. Nothing can force him to violate this, for were he to do so, he would not only lose his business, but also have his house exposed to the fury of the populace.

He is obliged to answer for every thing he prints, whether it be a libel, a piece of scandal, or a pasquinade. The offence, in any of these cases, will subject him to a process. If the king or parliament is attacked, the attorney-general is the accuser; and on such occasions it is not unusual to see the publisher defended by the most famous advocates at the bar.

Woodfall, the printer of the Public Advertiser, once the most famous newspaper in London, was tried on account of Junius's celebrated letter to the king, which is a master-piece of eloquence, boldness and truth. All England was interested in the issue, and the most famous lawyers

lawyers were employed, not simply to defend an individual, but to support that inviolable liberty which every Englishman arrogates, of speaking or writing openly and without reserve his sentiments of public affairs. Woodfall was declared innocent, and the process terminated in such a manner, as made it impossible to discover the ingenious author, whose name remains unknown to this very day. The critics pretend that it is the most perfect prose composition in the English language. Certain expressions, and a peculiar kind of genius exhibited throughout the whole, have made some suppose that the celebrated Edmund Burke is this same Junius.

It is not at all uncommon to see a printer put in the pillory, or dragged to gaol: by naming the author they escape these indignities: this, however, they never do without his consent. The reverend Mr. Horne Tooke, curate of Brentford, was so generous as to avow himself on an occasion of this kind in the year 1778.

This singular person, who, as a man, a patriot, and an orator, has acquired such high claims to the general esteem, and to the remembrance of his fellow-citizens in particular, as the founder

of

of that celebrated * society, the end of which was to support the rights and privileges of the nation, had, in a newspaper, described the last war in America as a massacre ; and the court party, who instituted and supported it, as so many assassins. The printer being prosecuted, and urged by the author, named him ; and the intrepid clergyman was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment. Respect for his profession saved him from the pillory.

The manner in which the people often use the wretches condemned to this kind of punishment, renders it equally dangerous and disgraceful. Sometimes, however, so far from being infamous, it becomes glorious and honourable. I myself saw such a scene. It was a printer, who, while in the pillory, was attended by an innumerable multitude, by whom he was saluted with the utmost respect, and hailed with repeated acclamations. They brought him refreshments, and, as he could not use his hands, they themselves helped him. The pillory, which was crowned with garlands of flowers, was surrounded by persons of the first rank, who discoursed familiarly with this lucky criminal ; to

* The bill of Rights.

whom,

whom, if I may so express myself, the pillory seemed a triumphal car ; and however constrained the position in which he was obliged to stand for an hour, that hour might be esteemed, perhaps, the most agreeable in his life.

In the year 1779, 4,500 numbers of the Public Advertiser were printed every day during the winter, and 3,000 during the summer ; and of the Daily Advertiser, which contains little else but advertisements, no less than 5,000 were circulated. This kind of business is extremely lucrative, and maintains, in the city of London alone, a prodigious multitude of persons : one with great propriety may say, that a great number of idlers are by this means brought up to do nothing. Among these may be reckoned the paragraph writers, who go to the coffee-houses and public places to pick up anecdotes and the news of the day, which they reduce into short sentences, and are paid in proportion to their number and authenticity. The speeches in parliament are taken by a certain class of men who are known in no other country than England. The proficients in this art will not forget a single word, however fast the member may speak : their manner of writing is by means of
certain

certain signs, which not only express words, but also whole sentences.

A newspaper is also printed by the court, under the title of the Gazette. It is dearer, and at the same time less interesting, than any of the others. The editor of this is a man of some consequence, and generally a member of parliament, who repays the emoluments attached to his office by voting with the ministry.

The Gazette contains all the acts of parliament; the petitions; the addresses of the counties and villages; the king's proclamations; a list of the promotions in the army and navy; the appointment to vacant employments, and all news of which they wish the people to be informed. During a war they insert there the dispatches from their generals and admirals, when they are flattering, taking care, however, to suppress all articles which may tend obliquely to censure themselves. Every thing against their own party is suppressed.

Such was the practice of lord North. Lord Chatham followed an opposite method during his glorious administration. All the letters from the

the commanding officers were printed word for word, without the least amendment or restriction : the public were informed of every thing even in the middle of the night. This manner of acting, at once so just and so candid, necessarily inspired the nation with the most entire confidence in this great man.

It is to this passion among the English for reading, daily, the prodigious number of newspapers and political pamphlets, that their extreme gravity and insociable disposition ought to be attributed.

In general nothing is more difficult than to make an Englishman speak ; he answers to every thing by *yes* and *no* ; address him, however, on some political subject, and he is suddenly animated ; he opens his mouth, and becomes eloquent : for this seems to be connected from his infancy with his very existence.

A foreigner will find himself exactly in the same predicament after a long residence in England. The same cause produces the same effect. I have known some, who, on their arrival in London, were entirely ignorant of politics, and who soon afterwards carried this taste to enthusiasm,

fiasm. This matter is easily explained : it is in quality of the citizen of a free state and as a rational creature, that one becomes solicitous about public affairs. Many are often personally interested either by means of themselves or others ; some search into the characters of those who hold the reins of government ; others are connected with them in the most intimate manner. Nothing but politics is heard in any society : they talk of nothing but about meetings to consider of the affairs of the state, deputations to present petitions, remonstrances, &c.

You may insert your opinions on any public matter in the newspapers, with a certainty of being read a thousand times. All these circumstances together inspire one with a lively interest in the concerns of the kingdom, and occasion the reading of the daily prints to be actually an epidemical passion among the English.

It is the custom no where but in England, to converse with every body about these publications. Strangers, therefore, are not qualified to judge of the excellence of these communications, but by the good effects that result from them. The anecdote of the German emigrants, which I have before mentioned, is a very convincing proof of this.

this. If compassion had been stimulated from every pulpit, or charity requested by sound of drum, such a generous donation could never have been obtained, as by means of a simple letter, read in all parts of London. The whole of that extensive capital was at one and the same instant informed of this melancholy circumstance, whereas a simple hearsay being always obscure and equivocal, people of sense would have paid no attention to it.

How many times have not the same means been employed to serve the purposes of patriotism, and to support schemes combined with equal wisdom and sagacity ! The greatest blessings, unfortunately, from the very nature of things, have their concomitant disadvantages, and so it is with the newspapers.

Without adverting to the circumstance of Lord George Gordon, that dangerous fool, who, in 1780, made use of this means to assemble a mob, and put London in the most imminent danger, there are a number of rogues, who, by means of advertisements, cheat the multitude in a thousand different ways ; and although the people are daily instructed by frequent examples, which ought

ought to banish their credulity, they are still disposed to believe every impostor.

Among these are the money-lenders, who wish to advance sums on good securities ; and who, after they have got possession of the notes, bonds, &c. instantly disappear and leave the person duped to lament his folly. Others make an affecting recital of the melancholy situation of a widow burthened with a large family ; or of an old gentleman who languishes in the utmost misery, and whose name they are obliged to conceal, on account of his extraction : they, however, never fail, with the most scrupulous exactness, to mention the place where donations will be received.

The public papers usually abound with offers of large sums to those persons who have sufficient interest with the great, to procure lucrative employments: to this transaction inviolable secrecy is always pledged. Many authors also insert criticisms in them on their works, and next day attack their own judgments under a feigned name. Their sole aim is to make a noise, and to be known, and they often attain it.

Women of the town, under the mask of the most scrupulous virtue, testify their wishes to procure a husband of good character.

They never fail to add, that they are rich, young, and handsome; and affirm that they want nothing with their future spouse, but a small fortune, or a little employment. Young men bred in the country, and others without experience, often fall into the snare. On an interview, they find these bewitching creatures, who appear as mild and gentle as innocence itself, know how to affect their compassion, by a touching recital of the persecutions of their relations or guardians; and never fail to make it appear clearly, that it would be the easiest thing in the world to get possession of their fortune. This story has the proper effect; the simpleton believes every thing, and never finds, till too late, that he has been grossly imposed upon.

There are also male advertisers, who make similar proposals; with this difference, however, that, instead of offering to share a large fortune, they generally wish to meet a lady with one. If they are not able to enumerate a catalogue of their personal accomplishments, they are sure to boast of their good sense, their excellent charac-

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ter ; and, in one word, of their inclination to consult, on all occasions, the happiness of their future wives. These latter sometimes succeed, but less frequently than the former.

Some people insert advertisements of this kind merely from pastime. Under different signatures they pretend to want husbands and wives, and manage interviews between the persons who answer them ; this often gives occasion to the most comical scenes.

But no men know better how to profit by the newspapers than the stock-jobbers. They declare war or peace at their pleasure, sign treaties of alliance, and fabricate events, which they seem to substantiate with so much address, that they have all the appearance of reality. By such arts, immense sums are lost and won every day.

From the newspapers, which form a very lucrative branch of trade, the government have found means to draw one hundred thousand pounds annually. Every paper pays three half-pence to the revenue in stamp-duty, and a tax of two shillings and sixpence is imposed on each advertisement.

All

All periodical publications are charged with a certain impost, and among these the pamphlets that are daily printed and forgotten.

As I am now mentioning publications of this kind, I shall say something of that celebrated paper called The North Briton. The forty-fifth number of this gave rise to a very singular event; no publication, indeed, was ever attended with such singular consequences. It occasioned a misunderstanding betwixt the people and the legislative power of that puissant empire, which lasted more than ten years, and put the constitution in the utmost danger. It robbed the king of the affections of his people, immortalized Wilkes the author, and established ministerial influence for ever.

As this circumstance, so interesting for the philosopher, the politician, and every man of reflection, is not well known in Germany, and the conduct of Wilkes has been grossly misrepresented, I imagine that it will not be improper here, to give a recital of the whole, equally true and circumstantial.

The administration of lord Bute, which com-

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menced with the reign of the present king, and which had for its first-fruits the unpopular peace of 1762, greatly displeased the nation. His lordship was a Scotsman; he dismissed a great number of the English from their employments, to bestow them on his countrymen; and this im-politic conduct greatly added to the general discontent. Wilkes happened then to be a member of the House of Commons, in which he had sat two former parliaments. He possessed a sound judgment, an enlightened mind, a profound knowledge of the rights of the nation, a courage and a firmness that fitted him for any enterprise; he was, however, destitute of one quality of the greatest importance in his situation: he was but a poor orator. After having dissipated a considerable fortune, he solicited a lucrative post. Two sorts of employment were the objects of his ambition; he wished to be a governor of one of the American provinces, or ambassador to the Porte. He asks one of these from lord Bute: that nobleman promises to gratify his inclinations, and disappoints him. This conduct irritated Wilkes: as he wrote infinitely better than he spoke, he seized the pen, and cunningly profiting by the discontent of the people, attacked the minister. This was almost the sole intention of the peri-

odical paper, entitled *The North Briton*. The subject was ample, and the imprudent conduct of lord Bute furnished him with materials. That minister burnt with revenge, and wanted nothing but a favourable opportunity to gratify it: one soon presented itself.

The speech which the king makes to his parliament is always composed by the minister. Being first read and criticised in the council of state, notwithstanding it is delivered by the sovereign, it may be considered as coming from the court party. His majesty, when addressing himself to both houses on the peace of Versailles in 1762, made use of these expressions: "after having, in concert with my good brother the king of Prussia, signed the *peace*, &c." All those who are the least acquainted with the political history of the times, must recollect in what manner this peace was concerted betwixt them: it is an anecdote well known in England; therefore Wilkes did not hesitate to observe in one of his periodical papers, that the assertion was a *falsehood*. Lord Bute, under pretence that such an expression was a personal attack on the monarch, immediately caused him to be seized, and imprisoned in the Tower.

In this he followed the example of several of his predecessors, who before had exerted a similar authority; with this difference, however, that it was always in cases of *high treason*.

According to the *habeas corpus act*, the prisoner has a right to investigate the process against him, and see if his confinement is conformable to the laws of the land. Wilkes accordingly claimed that privilege a few days after.

The English nation was interested in the event, because the rights of every citizen were affected by it. Wilkes, the champion of the people, supported by the first and most celebrated lawyers in the kingdom, presents himself before his judges, accompanied by an innumerable multitude, who waited the issue of this important affair with the greatest impatience. Judgment was given in his favour. He was declared innocent of the accusation; and the lords Egremont and Halifax, who had signed the warrant, were decreed to pay 5000l. sterling as damages.

They had gone so far as to seize and examine his papers. Wilkes, therefore, the moment that he was released, repairs to Sir John Fielding, a celebrated

celebrated justice of the peace, to request from him a warrant to apprehend the two ministers ; whom he treated as thieves, who had pillaged his dwelling-house. The magistrate did not accede to this demand ; however, the boldness of the proceeding did Mr. Wikes a great deal of honour.

In the mean time some of his papers gave his enemies, who were undoubtedly the most powerful men in the kingdom, an opportunity to commence a new process against him. Being unwilling to wait the event, he leaves England, and travels through France and Italy. His prosecutors, profiting by his absence, procure judgment against him ; and a majority of the House of Commons being in the interest of the court, he is expelled the parliament.

Being soon after destitute of money, and persecuted by his foreign creditors, he finds himself constrained to return to his native country. He accordingly repairs to London, in consequence of a bold plan which he had concerted ; and the prudence and firmness with which he accomplished it, were at last crowned with the most complete success. His first step was to present himself before the court which had given judgment against him : there he receives a sentence

of imprisonment for two years in the king's bench. He submits to it, and goes to surrender himself : the populace however try to prevent him, and he is obliged to conceal himself in a tavern. His design was to remain there till the tumult was abated ; but this was in vain. The house was actually besieged ; and the mob, instead of dispersing, became every moment more numerous. Having remained till night, Wilkes, who was determined to obey the laws, put a scheme in execution which never had been practised before. We hear every day of people disguising themselves to escape out of prison ; but, till then, I believe, no one ever disguised himself to get into one. This was actually done by him ; and, in consequence of it, he arrived in the king's bench.

This prison, situated in St. George's Fields, was surrounded next day by a prodigious crowd. They intended to have demolished this enormous mass from its very foundation, and thus deliver their favourite. This project was about to be executed, when Wilkes appears at a window, and, by means of prayers and entreaties, prevents them. The tumult was not, however, appeased until the arrival of the military ; who, by the blood of some of the ringleaders, put an end

end to the strange scene. A young man of low extraction, called Allen, was killed on this occasion. His death, which in any other country would have scarce been mentioned in a newspaper, was treated as if it had been an affair of consequence. The people became outrageous, moderate men murmured, the ministers trembled, and the king himself was displeased with the event.

In the mean time Wilkes lived very comfortably in prison. He received a number of visits daily; persons of the first rank and most distinguished merit went to see him, and offer their services.

His wants were supplied, and the society called the Bill of Rights paid all the debts which he had contracted in England, and which were very considerable.

He was, at the same time, elected knight of the shire for the county of Middlesex.

His confinement in 1770 was the signal for new troubles. The House of Commons, who looked on him as incapable of sitting in parliament on account of his expulsion, chose colonel

Luttrell, in his place, as representative for the county of Middlesex, although that gentleman had but a few votes in his favour. This was looked upon as an attempt against the fundamental principles of the constitution; for all the legislative body united, and still less the House of Commons, have not power to reject a member chosen according to the proper forms.

Relying on the goodness of his cause, Wilkes defies the Commons, who were now abhorred by the whole nation, and treated by them in the most contemptuous manner. It would have been easy for him to have resumed his place in the house, and to have maintained himself there by the assistance of an hundred thousand of his adherents. Such an act of violence would have been attended with consequences entirely different from those of lord George Gordon's, whose party was composed entirely of the dregs of the people. Wilkes had, on the other hand, the best and wisest part of the nation in his favour; nay, even a third of that very parliament which he bullied. Some of his friends advised him to carry things to extremities; but this he would not consent to, and waited peaceably for a dissolution of parliament.

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Notwithstanding the intrigues of the ministry he was, during these transactions, elected an alderman of London, appointed one of the sheriffs of the county of Middlesex, and at last, in the year 1774, chosen lord mayor. His ambition was now fully satisfied, but the essential part of his scheme was still unaccomplished ;—he wished to possess wealth, and he attained it. In the year 1778, he was elected to the important and lucrative office of chamberlain of the city ; an appointment that entirely satisfied all his wishes.

If a design wisely concerted, seconded by uncommon talents, by astonishing courage and firmness, and carried on to its completion with a perseverance that nothing could dishearten ; if all these, I say, have a claim to our admiration, Wilkes surely is entitled to it.

Had he so pleased, he might have become the Catiline of his country : he abhorred the idea, and chose to be her benefactor.

On more than one occasion he has actually been so. During the lawless tumult, occasioned by lord George Gordon, when the ministry trembled and remained inactive, and the magistrates durst not leave their houses, he was seen presenting

himself to the tumultuous populace, and braving death itself to save the bank, which they were about to pillage. He made use of prayers, entreaties, and menaces by turns : he even went so far as to seize some of the ringleaders with his own hands. This behaviour, so courageous and so patriotic, restored him to the regard of his sovereign, who, for twenty years, had vowed a mortal hatred against him. He is at this very moment one of the most active partizans of the minister.

It was in the year 1772, when Wilkes was only an alderman, that Crosby, then lord mayor, had a singular dispute with the House of Commons, which, if detailed with fidelity, would better characterise the constitution, the manners, and the ideas of the English than whole volumes written on the subject. Far from thinking that this anecdote composed part of the history of our own times, one would be tempted to imagine himself transported by the power of magic to some country of romance, or carried back to that happy period when the splendour of Rome and Greece shone unrivalled in the world. This event, and indeed almost every thing that concerns England, is only known in

Germany

Germany by means of the newspapers, and therefore must be very little understood.

A pamphlet having been published, containing many reflections on the House of Commons, they declared it a libel, and gave orders to the serjeant at arms to seize the two printers who had published it. This officer accordingly repairs to the city, where they happened to reside, with an intention to execute the commission. By his instructions, he was not to attend to the common forms, notwithstanding it is illegal to arrest any one in the city without having the warrant backed by the chief magistrate.

One of the printers allows himself to be taken without the least resistance. According to law, the prisoner must be carried before a justice of the peace, to see whether the detention is legal; and this the officer of the House of Commons complied with, notwithstanding his order was an emanation of the legislative authority.

On his arrival at Guildhall, Wilkes and Oliver happened to be on the bench. On examining the warrant, these two aldermen, observing

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that Crosby's signature was not affixed, declare it to be informal, and release the printer.

The serjeant at arms, covered with confusion, departs to look after the other culprit, with whom he hopes to be more fortunate : for, as it was now dinner-time, he imagined that these two magistrates would depart ; and hoped, on his return, to find others more compliant.

Full of this idea, he goes to the other printer ; but he being better acquainted with the laws, insists on seeing the warrant ; and not finding it signed by the lord mayor, he immediately sends for a constable, secures the officer, and accompanies him to Guildhall, attended by a prodigious crowd. The aldermen being gone to dine with the lord mayor, the prisoner is conducted to the mansion-house.

Crosby had the reputation of being a worthy man, but his knowledge was very superficial. It was only on account of his seniority and his wealth that he had been appointed to the high office which he then filled. His ambition was limited, and so was also his patriotism. His advanced age made him sigh after repose, and he had

had no wish for any thing else. The issue of this affair would, therefore, have been entirely different, if he had been allowed to proceed according to his own inclination: he was, however, obliged from circumstances to act in concert with his colleagues.

Wilkes and Oliver were the two most strenuous assertors of public liberty in the whole corporation of London. We have already given the character of the one: the other was a member of parliament, and equal to him in patriotism. Oliver was also a man of character, and had a noble and independent way of thinking.

Guided by these men, Crosby calls in the printer, hears his complaint, and orders the serjeant at arms to be carried to prison.

This act of authority occasioned a prodigious disturbance; and Crosby, Oliver, and Wilkes were summoned to appear before the House of Commons. The two first obey, and go in procession from the city, attended by several hundred carriages belonging to people of the first rank. Wilkes also accompanies them to the door; but, as he would not be permitted to appear as one

of the members for Middlesex, he proceeds no further.

At their arrival, they are received with shouts of applause by a prodigious concourse of people, who surrounded the house, and mal-treated all those who were of the court party.

Lord North, who had been the most violent against the city magistrates, had procured two hundred of the guards to protect himself and his friends ; but fearing that so small a number could not save him from an incensed populace, who threatened his destruction, he gets into a hackney coach, accompanied by a valet, and attempts to steal into the house in disguise.

This project, however, was unsuccessful ; he is known, the horses are stopt, and he himself is dragged by the hair, and exposed to a thousand indignities.

The existence of this man, to whom England unfortunately gave birth, now hung suspended by a thread : but the destinies resolved that he should still live for the unhappiness of thousands of his equals. The soldiers having come to his assistance,

assistance, and two of his creatures having generously shielded him with their own bodies, he was at last snatched from a certain death.—Having thus escaped the fate of the unhappy De Witt, he repairs to parliament, disfigured and almost unknown. He begins with recounting his sad adventure, while his eyes stream with tears, in that hypocritical tone which had been so successful with Cromwell. He beseeches Heaven to bear witness to his innocence, and the uprightness of his intentions; which having no other end than the good of the nation, gave him a claim on the gratitude, rather than the curses, of his fellow-citizens.

In this state of anxiety and grief, trembling lest the horrible scene, from which he had just escaped, should be renewed, he proposes to the accused members to repair, by an immediate apology, the irregularity of their conduct; assuring them, that the house was disposed to accept a very slight one.

Oliver rejects this proposition with the utmost scorn; adding, that to expect an apology from those who had supported the rights of their fellow-citizens, was the grossest insult; and that
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he and his adherents ought rather to offer excuses to the whole nation for their mal-administration. Crosby being of the same opinion, they were, by a plurality of voices, sent to the Tower.

The Tower is not a horrible prison, like the Bastile; it rather resembles a little town, abounding with tradesmen and artizans of every kind. A prodigious number of people reside there, and the apartments are very commodious. Crosby and Oliver, on their arrival, hired two little houses; and the numerous visits of their friends scarcely allowed them to perceive that they were prisoners.

While confined here, extraordinary honours were conferred on them; and it might be esteemed by both as the most happy epocha in their lives. Every ward in the city sent them deputations. These went in form, accompanied by an immense crowd of carriages, and in the name of the people of England, thanked them for having courageously defended the rights of their fellow-citizens, and sacrificed so generously their own liberty for the public welfare. Besides this, several cities, counties, and associations, returned them

them thanks ; sent them their freedom, and accompanied it with gifts. London in particular presented them with two massive cups of gold, on which the arms of the city were engraved.

It is impossible to recollect without admiration the fervour and patriotic enthusiasm which prevailed every where during three weeks, at the end of which time the parliament was prorogued.

On this occasion the magistrates of London, clothed in their robes, the sheriffs of the county of Middlesex, the common-council, all the militia of the city, and an immense crowd of distinguished persons, repaired to the Tower, accompanied by drums, cymbals, and trumpets, to receive the two prisoners. Being placed in the state-coach, they were conducted to the Mansion-house in triumph, amidst the ringing of bells, the firing of cannon, and every other demonstration of joy. The windows were crowded with beauties, who waved their handkerchiefs and added to the public triumph. The general enthusiasm cannot be well described : I myself saw many weep for joy, and realise the witty remark of lord Shaftesbury, who says, that enthusiasm

thusiasm is epidemic, and, like yawning, affects every body around.

Let the reader recollect, that all this was transacted, not in the corner of a distant province, but in the midst of the residence of a powerful monarch ; that the ministers, whose authority is very great, were the enemies and the prosecutors of the two prisoners ; and that this was not a tumult or a revolt, but a public act which the laws, far from prohibiting, seemed rather to authorise.

I shall never forget this memorable scene ;— with me it shall always be sacred. It is engraved in my mind in never-fading characters, and can only be effaced with my existence.

CHAPTER III.

The Fertility of England—Its Climate, Productions, and Industry—Society of Arts—Duke of Bridgewater's Canal—Extraordinary Inventions—Wedgwood's Manufactures — Mrs. Abington — Beggars of Rank — Calas—Colonel Champigny—Societies of Rogues.

THE south of Great Britain is almost an entire flat, and contains but very few mountains. If the principality of Wales, and some of the northern counties, be excepted, all that immense island resembles a garden, adorned with fine views and romantic prospects, which do not yield in any thing to those parts of Italy which are so much extolled. The riches of the inhabitants; the neatness and cleanliness of their manner of living,

living, which is discoverable in the very cottages ; the noble roads ; and a fertile and well cultivated soil, form one great whole, which the most phlegmatic observer is forced to admire.

The greatest objection that can be urged against England is the insalubrity of the air, and the indispensable custom of burning coals.

It is true that the climate is subject to frequent changes, but it is generally supportable both in the summer and winter. It is not bad health, but a love of variety and dissipation, that drives so many rich Englishmen to the south of France, either to squander their guineas there, or to œconomise in a country where every thing is sold at a low price, after they have hurt their fortunes at home. As the reason of these journeys is not very flattering to their pride, they disguise it under the pretence of the badness of their native air.

As to the English who have spent part of their lives in the Indies, and who have been of course used to a warmer sun, it is very evident that they must feel, in a very lively manner, the difference on their return, and that the air of Provence will be

be more genial to them than that of England.

It was this circumstance which obliged the celebrated lord Clive to spend two years of his life at Montpelier; where he hoped a long time, but in vain, to dissipate those hypochondriac humours with which he was tormented. He carried them back to England, where they changed to a profound melancholy; which, after preying for some time on his body, at last became victorious, and constrained him, as it were, to deprive himself of existence. Notwithstanding the care of his family to conceal the manner of his death, all the world soon knew, that the vanquisher and scourge of Asia, hanged himself in his own bed-chamber.

What will fully evince, how little the climate and use of coal-fires are hurtful to the health of the English, is the great number of old men who may there be met with constantly. On reading the list of deaths, one readily perceives that this class of men is equal, if not more numerous in that than in any other country in Europe. How is it possible that we should find so many aged people in London, where the consumption of this kind of fuel is excessive, if it were hurtful?

How

How comes it, that it does not affect the women, and that the complexion of the English is superior to that of all the other Europeans ?

The plague has ever been uncommon in England ; and this is a high proof in favour of the goodness of the climate. To this may be added the healthy constitutions of the natives, their vigour, intrepidity, and perpetual exertions. All the carpenters, blacksmiths, farriers, miners, porters, and peasants, are the most robust men in the world. Charles II. who had visited a good part of Europe, was used to say : “ Notwithstanding all the complaints of the disagreeableness and inconstancy of the climate of my native country, it is nevertheless certain, that there is no part in Europe, where it is possible to be out of doors for so many days in the year, or so many hours in a day, as in England.” They never experience inundations, so hurtful in other countries ; tempests, earthquakes, and famine, are equally unknown to them !

The grass in England is always of an unrivalled beauty, verdure, and extraordinary goodness. From hence proceeds the uncommon attachment of the English to those fine lawns, which they smooth and keep even by means of stone

stone rollers : they are sometimes so very regular, that you may play at bowls on them with as much nicety as you could on a billiard table. This is a favourite diversion, and is often enjoyed by people of the first rank.

Every part of the country abounds with parks, which are adorned with the most agreeable and romantic landscapes. Almost at every step you meet with alleys of fruit-trees, which conduct you to charming villages ; the inhabitants of which are well fed and well clothed, and in a state of plenty and abundance, sufficient to prove that theirs is the native country of riches, liberty, and improvement.

Nevertheless there is not in the whole island, either a society or an individual, whose business it is to animate this universal industry, or to bring agriculture, trade, or manufactures, to a greater degree of perfection. As no one is there limited in his rights, or disturbed in the possession of his property, all these advantages naturally accrue of themselves. To the same causes the flourishing state of Holland may be attributed. But however instructive the example of these two states may seem to be, one is nevertheless au-

thorised

thorised to believe, from the conduct of almost all the sovereigns in Europe, that they have unanimously endeavoured to stifle that industry which in itself is so precious, and in its consequences so necessary to the grandeur of a state.

Some time since the minister, to augment the number of his dependents, formed the design of erecting a board to watch over the interests of trade. The project was carried into execution: but trade, so far from increasing, declined the moment that these counsellors of commerce began to give her lessons. Of this, authentic proofs were produced, and it was abolished in 1782. Mr. Gibbon, the English Tacitus, was a member of this institution.

The banks of the Thames, from Gravesend to London, are adorned with towns and villages; and the neighbourhood occupied by a prodigious number of builders, who are continually employed in the construction of ships of all dimensions, and of every kind. The river itself is covered with vessels, which are moored in rows, for several miles.

The great industry that reigns every where, forms the most agreeable spectacle. Several thousands

sands live solely by their employments about the shipping. The coal-trade alone occupies an amazing number; the consumption of this article is inconceivable. I have seen a fleet of fifty sail arrive at once from Newcastle, and have been well assured that this is not at all extraordinary. The labourers who unload these colliers receive nine shillings per day. The coal-mines of Newcastle were not discovered till the fifteenth century; they are equally valuable as if they produced gold. The trade of this mineral, so necessary in Great Britain, is increasing, and has even been doubled since the year 1700. It is easy to conceive a proper idea of the wealth of that town, formerly so little known, by observing that the revenues of the corporation amount to nine thousand pounds a year.

An increase of buildings is visible in all the great cities throughout England: in respect to London, it is greatly disapproved, and not without reason. This, however, does not immediately proceed from itself, for the villages with which it is surrounded, and which augment daily, by their additional population, contribute greatly to its inhabitants.

The town of Stockton, which was but a hamlet a few years since, now sends upwards of a hundred and fifty vessels every year to the metropolis. In 1778, six hundred thousand sheep belonged to Dorchester alone.

Commerce increases daily in Hull, Bristol, Plymouth, Liverpool, &c. it is the same with manufactures. Neither the revolution that has taken place in regard to trade, nor the loss of the American colonies, has in the least decreased them. The city of Exeter vended stuffs in the year 1779 to the amount of a million sterling, a sum which almost seems incredible.

Trade now flourishes in almost an equal proportion in Scotland. Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Elgin are full of excellent manufactures.

The Scots hitherto neglected the herring fishery; they left it entirely to the Dutch, who came annually to their coasts, and enjoyed, undisturbed, that lucrative branch of commerce: they themselves now participate in its advantages. The town of Inverness alone employs five hundred vessels and three thousand fishermen. Eight hundred shallops and six thousand fishermen are employed

ployed in the river Forth, which this fish frequents during two months of the year, and procure a sufficient quantity to fill forty thousand barrels : one sixth part is consumed in the country ; the rest is exported. This exportation produces annually twenty thousand pounds sterl^{ing}. Several of the neighbouring towns also partake in the fishery ; Glasgow itself ships three thousand barrels every year for the foreign market.

It is the same in regard to the salmon. Aberdeen sends a hundred quintals annually to London, and Yarmouth ninety.

Many naturalists are of opinion that in Hampshire, where the air is pure and the climate warm, the vine and fig-tree might be cultivated to great advantage.

A letter is preserved in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, from Henry Barham to Sir Hans Sloane, written in the year 1719, in which he asserts that he had produced silk at Chelsea, which those who were conversant on the subject, had declared to be equal to that of Piedmont.

It is well known that there were many vine-

yards formerly in England. That old and celebrated record, called Doomsday-book, expressly says, that, before the Norman conquest, wine was made in the county of Essex.

It is but a few years since this interesting production was discovered. It begins with the time of William the Conqueror, and contains a circumstantial detail of the inventory which that monarch caused to be taken of all the produce of the kingdom ; and a list of all the manors, fiefs, rents, &c. This book is very difficult to decypher, being a mixture of French and bad German, written for the most part in Gothic characters. In consequence of this there are but very few, even of the learned, who can read the manuscript. The English, for a long time, looked upon it as merely an hieroglyphic, of which they could only interpret some passages, till, on the arrival of Raspe in England, it happened to fall into his hands.

That illustrious and intelligent man, who had been for many years employed in the German libraries, was very capable of cutting this Gordian knot : of this he gave sufficient proofs. The government was eager to know its contents ; but as many of the first families in the kingdom imagined

imagined themselves in some shape interested in the translation, they did not think it prudent to entrust it to a foreigner. A learned Englishman was therefore preferred to Rapse, on whose assistance he greatly depended, on accepting this important and difficult commission: unhappily, however, they quarrelled, and Doomsday-book was not translated.

The industry of the English has often received a new degree of energy from the assistance of my countrymen the Germans. One of them called Spielman constructed, in the reign of Elizabeth, the first paper-mill. Gottfried Box, another, in 1590, erected the first machine for the manufacturing of brass-wire, and afterwards another for copper-plates. Under the reign of the same queen a third built the first powder-mill. At this very day the best book-binder in London, and an artist so famous in his trade, that his equal has never yet been found, is also a German.

My country was very near snatching from the English the honour of producing the best clock-maker, an art in which they so much excel, and of gaining the premium which the parliament had assigned to the time-piece which

would best discover the longitude at sea. The sum allotted for this useful discovery was twenty thousand pounds. A great number of the first artists in Europe, animated by the allurements of glory and of gain, became candidates for this reward ; but an Englishman, of the name of Harrison, carried away both. It is, however, probable that a watch-maker of the name of Thiele de Breine would have supplanted him, if this excellent artisan had carried his watch to London before the payment of the reward : for, in the opinion of the English themselves, his mechanism was more ingeniously constructed, and much more likely than Harrison's to obtain the end proposed.

It is incredible how much, and by how many different means, industry is excited in England.

Without reckoning the usual sums which parliament votes annually in bounties, new objects are continually craving their patronage. Several patriotic societies, which labour with a zeal for the general good, worthy of admiration, follow their example.

The most numerous one that has ever existed
in

in Europe, is the society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, &c. It was founded in 1753, by William Shipley, and consisted, in 1784, of six thousand seven hundred members. The first noblemen in the nation belong to this institution. Every member pays two guineas a year, and this subscription forms a sum sufficient for the distribution of a great many premiums, and those of a considerable value.

These rewards are always destined to persons who by original inventions have become serviceable to mankind, or by an improvément of former discoveries, have carried them to a higher degree of perfection.

Their meetings rarely consist of more than two hundred persons; the rest very seldom attend, and content themselves with contributing, by their pecuniary assistance, to the noble design of this useful establishment. It is not to be doubted that this is the sole motive, as no kind of honour nor any mark of distinction is attached to the members. The principal intention is to improve agriculture, and the arts, by keeping up a constant correspondence with persons of every rank and station, who project schemes likely to be attended with good consequences, or communi-

cate experiments already made, whether unsuccessful or prosperous. Lord Romney has been for many years the president.

Another society has been formed in Brecknockshire, a county situated in the principality of Wales. The object of this institution is agriculture in all its branches, the establishment of manufactures of linen cloth, and the improvement of woollens. They also attend to the reparation of the great roads, and the construction of new ones: in one word, their plan is to give to industry a greater degree of activity and extension.

It is to one man that England is indebted for her inland navigation. Till 1759 the project was not carried into execution; and all the rivers and streams in the island were soon after covered with boats. This benefactor to his country was the duke of Bridgewater, who has immortalized himself by the construction of a canal, which would not disgrace a monarch. He was only twenty-one years of age, when he conceived this design, worthy of ancient Rome.

His artificial river unites the city of Liverpool with the populous town of Manchester. It is sometimes carried across immense rocks hollowed

lowed at top. Sometimes it suddenly vanishes, and makes a thousand turnings in a subterraneous passage eight English miles in length. After appearing all at once it seems suspended in the air, and crosses the Wevil by means of immense arches, in such a manner that one may often enjoy the picturesque sight of one vessel navigating in the stream below, and of another which crosses it, and seems to sail in the element above.

An Englishman of the name of Wedgewood has built a whole village in Staffordshire, which he has called Etruria, a name well merited by its superb works in the Etruscan style, which have become remarkable on account of the elegant forms into which the various manufactures are shaped. This person has realised an original idea, and acquired great wealth and celebrity. He has chosen for his models every thing that Italy and Greece has left most perfect in its kind, and which we still admire in Florence, Rome and Naples. He possesses exact drawings of all the ancient sculptures which have been preserved from Gothic barbarity and the waste of time, and copies them with great exactness in his productions.

Of his vases, &c. some are gilded, others are enamelled. He employs a great number of workmen, and has acquired a considerable fortune.

It was in the year 1771 that Cox engaged in an extraordinary enterprise. He knew that the princes of Asia held our mechanical inventions in the highest estimation; he was aware, however, that nothing which was not adorned with gold, silver, and precious stones, had any attraction for them. Every thing of this kind which they have to ornament their palaces, are clumsy and very badly executed. His project, therefore, was to join the magic of art to the imposing appearance of riches. A considerable fortune added to a genius at once subtle and inventive, furnished him with the means.

The most skilful artists in England and France, such as jewellers, clock-makers, goldsmiths, &c. were employed, and paid to exert their utmost skill.

Every thing that they undertook was performed with uncommon care and ingenuity, and he soon beheld himself possessed of a number of mechanical

chanical inventions unrivalled in point of excellence.

Cox was resolved to send this collection to Asia; he, however, kept it nine years in London, and shewed the whole by means of tickets, at half a guinea each. I myself have frequently seen it, and always with fresh admiration. Never was taste and grandeur, all the skill of mechanicks, and the magic of opticks, united in such a high degree of pefection. The eye met with nothing but gold, diamonds, and precious stones, which were shaped into the forms of a variety of animals, assumed their gestures, and seemed to be alive; birds of different kinds and of exquisite plumage sung the most ravishing notes; the swan of Europe swam in artificial rivers; the hare and partridges ran about in groves, planted by the hands of the most cunning workmen; while camels, elephants, and other productions of Asia, stalked around, and imitated nature with a scrupulous exactitude.

But the most romantic object in all this astonishing assemblage, was a castle six feet in height: it seemed to realise all the ideas which the imagination of the warmest poets could conceive of a palace in fairy land.

This superb collection, in which the precious metals seemed to constitute the least valuable parts, cost more than a hundred thousand pounds. The present emperor of China received a similar one from Cox in 1759: it is placed by the side of his throne in the grand audience chamber at Pe-kin. That of which I speak was destined for the Great Mogul, but the enormous debts which the ingenious artist was obliged to contract, and of which the interest alone amounted to a great sum, unfortunately prevented him from completing his design. A part only was sent to the East, the rest was disposed of in London by means of a lottery. Thus the hope of forming a new branch of trade with Asia was defeated perhaps for ever. From this, not only England, but other countries might have drawn the greatest advantages.

Doctor Graham, a Scotchman by birth, in the year 1780, by means of his celestial bed, which cost him several thousand pounds, gave at once a proof of the *wealth* and the *cullibility* of the English. He called his house the *Temple of Health*, and acted as the high priest of that puissant goddess; in this capacity he affirmed that he joined the useful to the agreeable, and all the wonders of art to the precious secrets of his profession. Nothing, indeed, could be more superb than this temple;

temple ; the electric fluid managed with uncommon skill, was darted around in beautiful irradiation ; transparent glass of various colours chosen and placed with taste ; valuable vases filled with the most exquisite aromatics, which awakened and softened the passions, and inspired the soul with a soft languor, were the first objects that presented themselves to the observation of the curious.

This modern Æsculapius had undoubtedly founded his scheme on a perfect knowledge of the human heart ; and the success that crowned his strange enterprise proved that he was not wrong in his calculation. Indeed it could not fail to succeed, for I really think that the sensual pleasures are carried as far, not to say farther, in London than in Paris.

Graham put an end to this farce about two years after it commenced, by selling his grand electrical apparatus, his instruments of music, and, finally, his celestial bed.

Mrs. Abington, the celebrated actress, is engaged in a very singular occupation. As she possesses an exquisite taste, she is constantly employed in driving about the capital to give her advice concerning the modes and fashions of the day.

day. She is called in like a physician, and recompensed as if she were an artist. There never is a marriage or ball in which she is not consulted. A great number of people of fashion treat her in the most familiar manner, and as if she were their equal. As she never appears on the stage but in the most elegant dress, her taste is sure to be copied by all the ladies who happen to be spectators. It is there that this priestess of the fashions displays all her art, being certain that she will be immediately copied with the most trivial exactness.

In the same manner that the philosophical disciples of antiquity imposed silence on the inconsiderate scholars, by observing, *our master has said thus*; so it is sufficient for the beauties of London to observe *Mrs. Abington has worn such a thing*, to shut the mouths of their fathers and their husbands. In her contract with the manager of Drury-Lane in the year 1781, it was agreed that the sum of five hundred pounds sterl^{ing} should be annually allowed for her wardrobe; besides this, she received eighteen guineas every night that she acted, and a benefit at the end of the season.

In a city such as London, where so many weak people who happen to be affluent reside, it is not at all surprising that artful impostors should by means of tricks and stratagems endeavour to avail themselves of the wealth of these fools.

Every thing is thought fair as long as they do not transgress the laws; thus a number of quacks of every kind exercise their various professions in peace and security.

About twelve months since, a person appeared in London who pretended to possess the secret of cutting the finger and toe nails in a manner so as to render the hands and feet much more elegant and beautiful*.

Having thus appealed to female vanity, the English ladies were enraptured with the fascinating idea of becoming more lovely, and this fellow being continually employed, was enabled to reside in an elegant house, and keep a fine carriage. He lived in this manner for two whole years, got a great deal of money and at the end of that time suddenly disappeared, leaving

* This man advertised as a chiropedist.

debts

debts behind him to the amount of three thousand pounds.

Another trade practised in London is that of begging. It is indeed very uncommon to see an Englishman who is not one of the very lowest of the people asking for charity, although foreigners of good birth, and who appear to have received a certain degree of education, exercise that shameful profession among them, and subsist without much trouble. These do not stop people in the streets, where they would receive nothing but trifles, or at most a little silver. Being well dressed they get admittance into houses of people of distinction, shew proofs and documents, which for the most part are forged, and receive gold from the inhabitants, who are generally credulous and beneficent.

I knew an Italian, formerly a dancer in the theatre at St. Petersburgh, who, although he could neither read nor write, after he had procured another rogue to draw up a patent for him, gave himself out as a Russian colonel. Provided with this false diploma, he entered with inconceivable impudence into the first houses in London, would not be stopped by any servant, penetrated into the inner apartments, at last got
eight

sight of the master, and never quitted him without receiving a present.

It was in vain that the Russian minister discovered the roguery of this fellow ; he could only inform a very small number of persons : the Italian still found out new benefactors, whom he imposed upon by means of his patent, and while he preserved it with care, it would have been very difficult to have punished him. After having practised similar arts for three years, he left England with a considerable sum of money, and is at this present moment a merchant in Dunkirk.

A Frenchman had a still better plan. He pretended to be the son of the unfortunate Calas, who, as is well known, lives in France, and is a physician. The general compassion for this unfortunate family opened every door in London to him : he received considerable presents, and departed with great wealth.

This trade, so singularly lucrative in that country, had so many attractions for a M. de Champigny, formerly a colonel in the service of France, and who arrived in London soon after the German war, that he reduced it to a system, and

and followed the profession for ten years with the most uncommon success. He never went on foot, but (is it to be believed?) in a brilliant equipage that belonged to him, and very often gave the most elegant entertainments. As he possessed a knowledge of the world, he knew how to exercise his skill with so much success, that even those persons who passed for misers, opened their purses to him without any difficulty. To the few who hesitated to make him those presents which he requested, he presented a list of subscribers to a new history of England, which he was about to write, and of which he actually printed one or two volumes.

The generous and compassionate character of the English, joined to the disgust so natural in man to industry, occasions all the streets of London to be crowded with beggars. These lazy wretches receive three, four, and sometimes five shillings a day in charity. They actually have their clubs in the parish of St. Giles's, where they meet to carouse, read the gazettes, and talk about politics. No one dares to attend those assemblies unless he is a beggar himself, or introduced by one. A friend of mine who wished to see and converse with all descriptions of men, having one day put on a ragged coat, promised to reward a mendicant

dicant if he would conduct him thither. He was accordingly introduced, found a great deal of gaiety and ease, and nothing that bore the appearance of indigence, save the tatters that covered the members. One cast his crutches into a corner of the room; one unbuckled his wooden leg; another took off the plaster which concealed his eye: all, in fine, discovered themselves in their own natural forms; recounted the adventures of that day, and concerted the stratagems to be put in execution on the morrow.

The female beggars generally hire infants from those who are poorer than themselves, to rouse, by that means, the charity of the passengers. They pay various prices for these children, from sixpence to two shillings a day, according as they are more or less deformed. A child that is very crooked and distorted generally earns three shillings, and sometimes even more. I happened once to overhear the conversation of two women who were talking concerning their profession. One of them informed the other that she paid two shillings a day for the child in her arms: "What!" replies her companion, "are you a fool? Two shillings for that charming baby!—I would not give more for a mon-
ster."

In the same parish the pick-pockets hold their meetings, and have an ordinary which they frequent, where they sell or exchange the handkerchiefs, snuff-boxes, and other articles which they have filched in the course of the day. In any other country these associations would be discovered, and the whole gang made prisoners : this is not, however, possible in London ; for as these rogues never act in a body, but each by himself, it is necessary that there should be proofs against every individual, for the laws are scrupulously observed in arresting the most despicable wretch in the community. When any one of them is suspected, his person must be sworn to ; and his companions, although well known, never run any risk whatever.

This class of rogues, however, do not now assemble so publicly as formerly. About thirty years since a house in St. Giles's became very celebrated as the rendezvous of this kind of thieves ; at present it is occupied by an honest brewer. The knives and forks were chained to the table, and the cloth nailed to it. Not far from that place was also a shop famous for gin ; over the door of which was the following inscription : *Here you may get drunk for a penny, dead drunk*

drunk for two-pence, and have straw for nothing.

This singular liquor was sold in the cellar, which was crowded day and night with a species of beings who rather resemble beasts than men. A statute, however, called the *Gin-act*, by imposing a high duty on that liquid poison, put an end to such horrid dissoluteness. It is necessary I should remark here, that the description I have just given does not exhibit a picture of the capital during the present times, and that I have only spoken of an obscure street which has been distinguished for ages, by the poverty and the gross and savage character of the wretches who reside in it.

London still contains those pretended fortunetellers, who, for the moderate sum of one shilling, augur a happy destiny to the curious. Their lodgings are usually adorned with magical characters, and furnished with celestial and terrestrial globes. Their dress is a green robe, a fur night-cap, and a long beard tied under the chin. These for the most part are young men, but, by means of this dress, they assume the appearance of old age, and pretend to be arrived from the East. That they may not be supposed

to

to know a word of English, they make use of an interpreter, to give an air of truth to their imposture, who explains the meaning of the oracle to the dupes, and shares the spoils with his master. These fortune-tellers are always English or Irish, for as yet no foreigner has dared to make such an attempt.

This kind of imposition is severely punished, but neither so often nor so severely as to abolish it entirely. As the public peace is not endangered by the practice; as no bad consequences follow their ridiculous predictions; as fortunetellers at bottom are only a kind of beggars; and as fools in all countries are determined to be deceived: from thence it proceeds that they do not prosecute these people with any degree of rigour, unless they become too public and make a prodigious noise.

Sometimes they carry their impudence to such a length, that they advertise in the newspapers, and inform the world of their abilities, their price, and their abode. If a magistrate should go to the place appointed, they deny the whole, and affirm that some wag has done it to amuse himself at their expence. On these occasions they easily manage so as to hide their robe, cap, globes, and

and in a word every indication of their profession; so that not finding any proofs sufficient to convict them, the officers of justice are obliged to retire, and the fortune-teller continues his trade in peace.

CHAPTER IV.

Extent of London—Contrast betwixt the City and the West End of the Town—Peculiarities in the Houses and Public Buildings—The Pavement—Assurance of Houses—Is London well lighted?—St. Paul's—Westminster Abbey—Anecdote of Charles I.—Adelphi—Mansion House—Bridges—The Bank—City Magistrates—Patriotism of Mr. Beckford.

THIRTY years ago it was difficult to ascertain whether London or Paris was the larger city. Since, however, they have prescribed certain bounds to the latter, which they are not allowed to exceed, and this wise regulation has not yet been adopted in the metropolis of England, which every day receives a new

increase of buildings ; it cannot now be doubted that the English have the misfortune to possess a capital infinitely more extensive than the French. That which adds not a little to its magnitude, is the great number of large villages, which serve as country houses ; and which being incorporated as it were with the suburbs of the town, form with it a monstrous aggregate, to which there are neither limits nor regulations. No less than forty-three thousand new houses were built, between 1762 and 1779.

Some enlightened patriots have attempted to stop this evil, which is continually increasing. "It is madness," say they, "thus to *roof* all the county of Middlesex with tiles." The sagacious North thought proper to impose a duty on bricks ; but far from attaining the end proposed, the *rage* for building seemed only to increase. The projectors were not in the least frightened with this tax : being certain of always finding inhabitants, they only became anxious to make their houses more agreeable and commodious than formerly.

For these twenty years past, an actual emigration has taken place from the eastern parts of London towards the western ; thousands have

left the former, where they do not erect new buildings, for the latter, where the most fertile fields and most agreeable gardens are daily metamorphosed into houses and streets.

The city, especially the houses along the banks of the Thames, is composed of old ruins: the streets are narrow, obscure, and badly paved: it is the residence of the seamen, of the workmen employed in ship-building, and of a great part of the Jews who reside in London. The contrast betwixt that and the western parts of the metropolis is astonishing: the houses there are almost all new, and of an excellent construction; the squares are magnificent; the streets are built in straight lines, and perfectly well lighted: no city in Europe is better paved. If London were equally well built, no place in the whole world would be comparable to it.

It is a singular circumstance, and one that no traveller has ever remarked, that the western division of London, which is in extent more than half the capital, and which is entirely separated from the city, has not as yet received any name. When the citizens speak of any particular part of it, they content themselves with mentioning the

the name of the street ; and when they talk of the whole, they term it *the other end of the town.* Foreigners and geographers do wrong in calling this prodigious assemblage of streets and squares Westminster : that district does not form a tenth of it ; all the rest is included in that of Middlesex.

As every thing in that country is singular, it is not in the least surprising that the capital should be placed in different counties, and that each particular portion of it has a distinct jurisdiction.

The city, which is the smallest division of London, has its own magistrates ; all the rest is governed by justices of the peace, which gives occasion to a remarkable difference in the *police.* In the former it is more severe and exact ; the love of order and industry is also more perceptible.

Two towns a hundred leagues distant from each other, cannot have less resemblance than there is between the city and the other parts of London : the form of government ; the regulations ; the privileges ; the taste and arrangement of the houses ; the manner of living ; every thing,

in one word, renders this difference remarkable.

The citizens are represented in parliament by four members, whom they alone elect ; the other inhabitants of the metropolis, according to the districts which they inhabit, vote for Middlesex, Surry, Kent, and Westminster.

During the fire in 1666, thirty thousand four hundred houses, eighty-seven churches, and twenty-six hospitals in the city were consumed by the flames. Of this terrible devastation no trace now remains ; but as every person was anxious to rebuild his dwelling-house, necessity made them neglect to make the buildings either regular or convenient. From thence proceed the number of ill-formed masses of brick and mortar, dark, and without taste ; the crooked and narrow streets, and the obscure situation of the churches and other public edifices : faults which have been carefully avoided in the western parts of the capital.

The churches eastward of Temple Bar are heaped upon one another ; they have all been rebuilt on their ancient foundations ; and one would imagine, from their number, that London

was

was formerly composed of chapels and convents. West of Temple Bar, on the other hand, they are very few : the zeal to lodge themselves seems more to have influenced the inhabitants, than the desire to erect places of worship for the Deity : in some parts, there are six thousand houses to one parish church.

The shops are open by eight o'clock every morning in the city ; all is then in motion, every body is at work ; while on the other hand, at the *court end* of the town, the streets are empty, the houses shut, and even the very domestics are asleep ; the sound of coaches is not heard, and one seems to walk about in a place that has been deserted. This difference, which extends to drinking and eating, amusements, dress, and manner of expression, occasions a kind of hatred between the inhabitants of each. Those in the city charge the people who live at the west end of the town with luxury, idleness, effeminacy, and an attachment to French fashions ; while the others speak of a citizen as a dull, fat animal, who places all his merits in his strong box.

But it is more especially when the lord mayor, sheriffs and common council have an audience at St. James's, to present a petition, or compliment

his majesty on some great event, that the courtiers attempt to ridicule them. One may easily imagine that a simple tradesman, totally unacquainted with the modes and customs of a court, will not be able to acquit himself on such solemn occasions with the ease of a courtier who has made *etiquette* his chief and his only study, and who looks upon it as the most interesting and the most useful of all accomplishments.

This antipathy is so notorious, that it is mentioned in ballads, noticed on the stage, and is not forgotten even in the parliament itself. In Italy they would arm themselves with poignards, and spill each others' blood on a similar occasion ; — but so far from being attended with fatal consequences in England, it serves only to banish the *spleen* of the nation.

The English nobility generally live three quarters of the year in the country. This ancient custom of staying but a short time in the capital, is the reason why there are so few magnificent mansions in London. It is observed, however, that the metropolis having lately acquired more attractions, people of distinction now reside there longer than they were wont to do :

do: however, they still look on their country seats as their principal habitations.

Many families who have twenty thousand a year, have but a few apartments in town, and, as they keep a prodigious train of servants, are of course confined in regard to room. In a short time this inconvenience will no longer exist, as a number of people of fashion are now building superb palaces.

It may be thought that this custom is encouraged by government; but although the chief design of all courts be, to draw around them the greater part of the nobility to add to their splendour, and take away from them the power of raising disturbances in the provinces; I am, however, of opinion, that nothing but the pleasures of the metropolis influence the English.

The nation already begins to be less attached to hunting, and to feel a greater passion for the fine arts, and every thing that can add to the pleasures of a sensual life. It is also certain, that the next generation of the nobility will reside, like those of France, entirely in the capital. When one considers that, since this custom has

prevailed, those commotions which the great used formerly to foment, have altogether subsided; and that in England and Poland alone, where the nobility reside on their estates, disturbances of this kind have happened in the present age; it must be allowed that luxury, against which so much declamation prevails, has been attended with at least some good consequences.

This new inclination, by which the wealthy are induced to live in London, has given to projectors the idea of building large streets, and extensive squares, adorned with excellent houses. These houses, which may be regarded as so many palaces, are very lofty, exceedingly commodious, and have each of them two stories under ground, to which sufficient light is communicated by means of a fore-court. The servants are lodged, and the kitchen, store-rooms, &c. are placed there, so that the rest of the house is entirely at the disposal of the master.

The builders have generally a lease of ninety-nine years, and at the end of that term are obliged either to give up the premises, or renew the agreement on paying a fine. The duke of Portland has eight thousand buildings erected in this

this manner on his estate in the neighbourhood of town.

It is to this custom that the want of solidity in the houses, and the few master-pieces of architecture which we meet with in London, may be fairly attributed. If this reason did not exist, rich individuals would glory in decorating the capital of their native country. However, the disadvantage is in a great measure recompensed by the commodiousness of the buildings.

Every house is abundantly supplied with water, by means of pipes, which distribute it to all the streets in London. This profusion is of the greatest use in case of fire, by placing the engines so as to receive a constant supply. One need never be afraid of a scarcity of this precious commodity; for, not contented with making the Thames to run through all parts of the town, they have brought the New River from the county of Hertford for the same purpose. By means of engines at London-bridge they raise the river to a prodigious height, and then circulate it through wooden pipes.

They are careful in England not only to in-

sure their houses and their shops, but even public buildings, such as churches, hospitals, and theatres. This precaution is not used in Paris, notwithstanding its boasted regulations are raised to the skies. Any one may also insure his goods and wardrobe ; nay, every thing but his ready money. This excellent establishment is, however, sometimes abused : more than one rogue has burnt his own house ; and as this kind of crime is very difficult to be proved, the office is generally obliged to pay the amount of the demand. Immediately after the fire, the assurers become entitled to their money, having first transmitted the amount of their losses, and attested the statement by an oath. Notwithstanding the number of houses annually consumed in London by the flames, a mere trifle is given for the risk : it is usually no more than in the proportion of half a crown for a hundred pounds.

No part of Europe exhibits such luxury and magnificence as the English display within the walls of their dwelling houses. The staircase, which is covered with the richest carpets, is supported by a balustrade of the finest Indian wood, curiously constructed, and lighted by lamps containing crystal vases. The landing-places

places are adorned with busts, pictures and medallions ; the wainscot and cielings of the apartments are covered with the finest varnish, and enriched with gold, bas-reliefs, and the most happy attempts in painting and sculpture. The chimneys are of Italian marble, on which flowers and figures, cut in the most exquisite stile, form the chief ornaments ; the locks of the doors are of steel damasked with gold. Carpets which often cost three hundred pounds a-piece, and which one scruples to touch with his foot, cover all the rooms ; the richest stuffs from the looms of Asia are employed as window curtains ; and the clocks and watches with which the apartments are furnished, astonish by their magnificence, and the ingenious complication of their mechanism.

The English have also introduced a new species of sculpture ; this consists in medallions of ivory, of which the workmanship is equally delicate and elegant. These are placed upon black velvet covered with glass, and contained in a frame of the richest workmanship.

The present fashion of adorning the capital by the magnificence and the luxury of their mansions, every day increases among the great, and perhaps will at last destroy a custom, of which

the lovers of painting and sculpture have so long complained; that of embellishing their country-houses with all the wonders of art, and which, thus entombed in the heart of a remote province, are for ever lost to the world. Where is the artist who has time and money sufficient to sacrifice them in searching for a production which he may not perhaps find; or which, if he does meet with after a long and painful search, he can only view in a transitory manner, without studying its beauties at his ease?

Exclusive of St. Pauls' cathedral and the collegiate church of Westminster, London contains one hundred and two parish-churches and sixty-nine chapels of the established religion; twenty-one belonging to the French protestants; eleven to the Germans, Dutch, and Swedes; thirty-three to the anabaptists and quakers; twenty-six to the independants: twenty-eight to the presbyterians; nineteen to the catholics; and three to the Jews: the number consecrated to the worship of the Divinity is three hundred and forty edifices. In this account I do not include twenty-one churches which do not belong to any particular parish. The foregoing list was ascertained in 1779: I make this remark, because the anabaptists, quakers, &c. &c. augment, diminish,

nish, and often change the houses where they assemble.

No city is adorned with such fine squares as London. They are all composed of noble and handsome houses: there are neither shops nor warehouses to be seen in them: in the centre there is usually a piece of ground laid out in a beautiful manner, which serves as an agreeable walk. Some are adorned with statues and obelisks. Markets, so common in other capitals, never disgrace them with their disgusting appearance. The squares in London offer such objects to the eye as announce the opulence and good taste of the inhabitants: those who reside there, besides this, have the advantage of breathing a pure air, and are never disturbed by any noise.

The markets in the metropolis, which are very numerous, have certain fixed stations, where neither the buyers nor sellers need fear being run over by the wheels of carriages, or trampled upon by the hoofs of horses, being, by means of their situation, secured from such inconveniences. This regulation, which is the consequence of an excellent *police*, ought to be adopted in every great town.

Among

Among the peculiarities of London may be reckoned the pavement and the lamps. About twenty years since, that metropolis was the worst paved city in Europe ; the evil was indeed felt, but the inhabitants did not then know how to remedy it. From almost every house an enormous *sign* was suspended, which darkened the streets, often fell down, and sometimes killed the passengers. Two acts of parliament appeared almost at the same time, and obviated these disadvantages ; the signs disappeared, and the streets of London were covered with a pavement unrivalled in its kind, and which cost four hundred thousand pounds sterlinc.

By means of large foot ways of hewn stone, the passengers, without being incommoded by the horses and carriages, pass freely along. No coachman, under the penalty of twenty shillings, dares to drive upon this, or touch the *kerb stone*, even if he is obliged to wait whole hours. Considerable sums are appropriated towards the repairing of these excellent foot-ways ; a regulation at once singular and wise prevents the pavement from being hurt, as all the carts, waggons, &c. are now obliged to make use of wheels with rims six inches in diameter. These, so far from hurting the streets, make them the more firm, and in a certain

certain degree repair the damages which the chariots, coaches, and other light carriages have occasioned.

As the English are prodigal of their money and their time in favour of every public establishment, one may naturally expect to find that London is well lighted. Nothing, indeed, can be more superb. The lamps, which often consist of two, three, and sometimes four branches, are enclosed in crystal globes, and, being attached to iron supporters, are placed at a small distance from each other. They are lighted at sun-set, both in winter and summer, as well when the moon shines as not. In Oxford-street alone, there are more lamps than in all Paris.

The great roads within seven or eight miles of town are also illuminated in the same manner; and as they are very numerous, the effect is charming, more especially in the county of Surry, where they frequently cross each other obliquely, and at right angles. The highways are for the most part bordered with palisades and country houses; little wooden boxes provided with bells, and containing watchmen armed with musquets, are also posted at every hundred paces.

As all the shops are open till ten o'clock at night, and exceedingly well lighted ; this, together with the lamps in the streets, has a most astonishing effect. The Prince of Monaco, after the demise of the late duke of York, who died in his territories, went to England on an invitation from the king. It being rather late when he arrived, his highness imagined that this brilliant illumination was made in honour to him, for he thought it impossible that the inhabitants could always support such an immense expence. The prince's mistake was soon divulged, and occasioned many pleasantries.

From what has been said above, it may be easily imagined that London contains many fine houses, and very few *palaces*. But notwithstanding it is not customary among the English to give this appellation to Burlington, Northumberland, and Somerset Houses, the latter of which is a superb edifice, and has been lately erected at the expence of the nation ; it is, however, certain, that all these buildings are on every account worthy of being styled so. This custom perhaps arises from that *spirit of equality*, which constitutes the chief pride of the nation. It is only the residence of sovereigns that they dignify with the name of a *palace* ; every other edifice,

edifice, however large and however superb, whether it belongs to the king's brother, or even to the prince of Wales, is simply called a house.

The most noble works in architecture contained in London, are the churches, the bridges, the hospitals, and some other public edifices.

The cathedral of St. Paul's is not unworthy of the nation. Notwithstanding all its faults, it would be much more admired if the site, concealing its proper point of view from the spectator, did not at the same time hide all its beauties. It is generally known that it was built after the model of St. Peter's at Rome, and yet it only resembles it in its shape and dome. The front towards Ludgate-hill is more superb, and has an effect infinitely more interesting than St. Peter's: it wants, however, the admirable situation, the colonade, the *jet d'eau*, and the obelisk of the latter.

There are a great number of engravings of the design after which Sir Christopher Wren, the architect, intended to have executed this building. His plan was in the purest Grecian style; and if his advice had been followed, London might now boast the glory of possessing the master-piece of

of modern architecture. The consent of the chapter of St. Paul's being unfortunately necessary on this occasion, they rejected the idea, observing at the same time, " That such an edifice would rather resemble a Pagan temple than a Christian church."

There is no other example of a single architect having begun and executed a building of such an astonishing immensity. It was the labour of thirty-seven years, and cost a million two hundred thousand pounds sterling.

Divine service is celebrated in only a small part of it; all the rest is empty, and without any ornament, which has a very disagreeable effect. It is at last perceived how much this superb edifice suffers by its sad and doleful vacuity; for which reason they have for some time past formed the design of furnishing it with monuments to the memory of illustrious Englishmen. In consequence of this project, the king was petitioned by the common council of London, in the year 1778, to permit the monument to be placed there, which the parliament had voted to the memory of lord Chatham. The minister, who wished as much as possible to detract from the reputation of that great statesman, did not choose

to

to acquiesce in the demand ; the funeral trophies were therefore banished into one of the most obscure corners of Westminster abbey, where the effect is entirely lost. The sculpture has also been confided to an artist who is but little known. If the minister had acceded to the proposition of the citizens, St. Paul's would have been insensibly filled with the noblest memorials of national glory.

The church or abbey of Westminster is, perhaps, the most beautiful specimen of Gothic architecture now in existence. The grandeur of its columns, the boldness of its arches, its immense extent, its ornaments and their distribution, taken altogether, make this a most extraordinary edifice. It was formerly a convent of Benedictines ; Cromwell converted it into a stable for his cavalry. In no part of the world is such a multitude of superb monuments to be met with ; for, notwithstanding the prodigious space within the walls, in a few years there will not be room for any more.

This is the burial-place of the kings of England, and of many celebrated men, to whom either their friends or the nation at large have erected memorials. If any place is capable of inspiring holy

holy awe and religious terror, it is this. This spot is also sacred to men of letters and the most famous poets ; here the man of genius, elevated and inflamed at the sight, beholds the most celebrated names of which the world can boast. It is here too that the monuments of the statesman, the general, the admiral, the philosopher, the poet, the man of learning, and the artist, touch one another.

The tomb of Newton is finely executed, and placed in an excellent situation ; on the base you read the following sentence : “ Mortals, rejoice “ that you once possessed this ornament of hu- “ man nature !” The inscription, which is in the Latin language, was preferred to the English epitaph written by Pope, which, although exaggerated, is noble and poetical.

Nature, and Nature's laws, lay hid in night ;
God said—Let Newton be ! and all was light.

There are also many foreigners of distinguished merit buried here. The tombs of St. Evremond and Handel are truly admirable ; that of Handel in particular is reckoned by the connoisseurs to be the most beautiful and ingenious one in the whole

whole abbey. The English never esteemed any stranger so much as him ; it is not therefore astonishing that they should raise such a magnificent tribute to his memory. The idea is sublime : Handel, awakened by a trumpet blown by an angel, starts from his tomb : a sentiment of religious terror is not what agitates his soul at that moment : the sounds of the trumpet fix all his attention ; his arms, which he elevates, his ear, with which he listens, every feature in his countenance seems to indicate, that, entranced in this celestial harmony, his soul is unable to attend to any thing else.

The inscription beneath the bust of Shakespeare, is taken from a fine passage in one of his dramatic pieces called *The Tempest*.

The cloud-capt towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherits, shall dissolve ;
And, like the baseless fabric of a vision,
Leave not a rack behind.

Gay, so celebrated on account of his Fables, has the following lines on his tomb :

Life is a jest, and all things shew it :
I thought so once, but now I know it.

These

These monuments, erected to the *manes* of great men, and which have eternized the very artists employed in them, form a spectacle equally impressive and magnificent. England is undoubtedly the country in Europe where learning is most nobly recompensed: it is this sentiment which has been expressed with so much truth and propriety by Engel on the tomb of Lessing.

Wenn er ein Teut scher nicht, wenn er ein Britte waere,
So schlosse seinen farg die Gruft der Koenge ein,
So würd ein Volk, gefühlvoll für die Ehre,
Ihm öffentlich ein ewig Denkmal weihn.

“ If he had been an Englishman, instead of a German, his body would have been entombed among kings. A nation to whom honour is so dear, would have erected a monument to his memory at the public expence, and rendered his name immortal ! ”

Westminster abbey also contains the bodies of many sovereigns; among others are the monuments of Henry VII. and Henry VIII. Their successors have not been equally honoured. Elizabeth herself has only a simple epitaph. Instead of sculpture, they have of late adopted the singular and childish custom of placing a portrait

trait in wax over the grave, which becomes hideous at the end of a few years.

In the reign of queen Anne the parliament granted four thousand pounds sterlinc for the repairing of this church.

This is the place to recount a singular anecdote, to which the best English historians, although they were too prudent to declare it on account of the honour of the nation, are yet nevertheless said to have given credit.

If we are to believe tradition, the body of the unfortunate Charles I. was imminately after decollation buried in the chapel of Windsor castle; it is still said to remain in a vault under the choir, of which no one either does know, or at least chooses to own the situation. This strange ignorance of such a remarkable circumstance, and which leaves so much to supposition, is an argument in favour of what I am about to relate.

It is asserted, that some royalists conveyed in the most secret manner the remains of their sovereign from Windsor to Westminster abbey. On the restoration of Charles II. the supposed body of Cromwell was dug up, dragged through

the streets, and exposed on a gallows. Now it is pretended that, either through a mistake, or a concerted design, this was actually the corpse of Charles I. which experienced this ignominious usage ; for when, in the presence of an innumerable crowd of spectators, the executioner was about to cut off the head, to his utter astonishment, he found that the ceremony had been already performed.

The more modern churches in London are built with a considerable share of taste: but I shall only mention St. Martin's, the front of which is an imitation of the Pantheon at Rome. The connoisseurs, however, are much disgusted to see in all of them steeples and belfries, instead of domes, which are so much more majestic. A metropolis possessed of such immense riches, and which boasts of, perhaps, two of the best architects in Europe*, ought to excel in this species of buildings.

Adam has erected towards the Thames a pile of buildings, called the Adelphi, which, on account of their convenience and situation, may be

* Mr. Adam and Sir W. Chambers.

quoted as models. All the houses are built on arches, whose grandeur and solidity deserve to be compared to those magnificent common sewers which at this very day are accounted among the wonders of ancient Rome.

Many of the English, with great propriety, imagine that, if the present king had a taste for architecture, and would use his powerful influence in raising palaces and other public buildings worthy of the nation, London would actually become the most superb city in Europe.

It is extremely probable that, if the unfortunate American war had not taken place, and the flourishing trade of these proud islanders had continued, in twenty years time their capital would have excited the jealousy of all the surrounding nations.

The Mansion-house, where the chief magistrate of the city resides during his mayoralty, ought also to be mentioned. It was built about half a century ago, at a period when the English were not initiated in the fine arts. The common council being assembled on purpose to examine the plans laid before them for this edifice, a nobleman who had been in Italy sent them a

design of Palladio's, which he had brought with him from that country ; and which, as they were determined to spare no expence, was by its elegance and grandeur peculiarly adapted for the purpose.

These respectable citizens, however, were entirely unacquainted with Palladio ; they desired to know who he was, and wanted very much to see and converse with him. After a long debate, an alderman observed, that Palladio was a foreigner who had been dead for some years, and that it would be exceedingly ridiculous to execute the plan of a stranger, when London produced so many excellent architects.

After this he proposed a ship-carpenter, who was immediately accepted without any difficulty.

This man accordingly planned and executed the building, as may be easily seen at the first glance ; for the front exactly resembles the *stern of a man of war*. The apartments are obscure and badly distributed, and the stairs, which look like ladders, are very ill contrived. It is in this edifice, which taken altogether has nothing absolutely disagreeable in its appearance, that the

lord mayor is obliged to reside, notwithstanding he may have a house of his own in the neighbourhood.

The beauty and grandeur of the three principal bridges across the Thames, are a high proof of the wealth of the nation, and of its passion for great enterprises. I should blush to compare the *Pont Neuf* and *Pont Royal* at Paris to those of Westminster or Blackfriars. An Englishman is proud, but he is not a boaster; we therefore hear but little of these master-pieces of architecture, which by their grandeur, magnificence, and conveniency, are the first works of this kind that are to be found in Europe. I will not even except the Rialto at Venice; for the unpolished blocks of marble with which it is composed, have nothing magnificent in their appearance. Even the single arch of which it consists, and which is so famous on account of its grandeur and extent, has been rivalled in Great Britain by a bridge across the Don in Ayrshire, the two extremities of which are placed on the opposite banks of the river, and are 90 feet distant from each other. The span of the Rialto is exactly of the same dimensions.

The new bridges at London are equally grand

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and

and commodious. That of Westminster is 1223 feet long, and 44 broad. It is extremely well paved; the sides are adorned with stone balustrades; the foot-paths are broad; the lamps are numerous, and the alcoves placed at proper distances shelter the passengers from the rain. It has fifteen arches; the centre one of which is 66 feet in width; they are all adorned with columns, and remarkably well vaulted.

This immense pile, which was twelve years in building, cost one hundred and fifty thousand pounds.

The prodigious expence did not, however, prevent them from immediately laying the foundation of another, called Blackfriars, which is placed in the centre of the city, and joins it to the county of Surry. It is still more elegant and magnificent than that of Westminster. Its arches are adorned with columns of the Ionic order, and placed two and two; their bases touch the river, and have a fine effect. This bridge was entirely constructed at the expence of the citizens, and cost one hundred and sixty thousand pounds, which was repaid by means of a toll on carriages, horses, and foot passengers.

Some

Some years since another was projected, betwixt the two new ones : the execution, however, of this has been deferred.

Notwithstanding London bridge is a very good one, yet it is nothing comparable to the others. The solidity of it, however (for it was built more than 800 years since), gives us a favourable idea of the ancient manner of building. Its arches are low, and very narrow : circumstances which, together with the rapidity of the stream, occasion many accidents.

Formerly this bridge was covered with houses, like *Notre Dame* at Paris.

Near to this stands a column of the Doric order, commonly called the *Monument*; it was built to perpetuate the memory of the fire by which London suffered so severely in the year 1666. Being erected in the very place where the conflagration began, all its beauty is lost by the badness of its situation. It is two hundred feet perpendicular, and consequently exceeds in height that of Trajan at Rome; it has like it a winding stair-case in the inside. The sum appropriated to its erection was thirty thousand pounds sterling.

As its fall is continually apprehended, and would be attended with the most fatal consequences, it has been often proposed to remove this immense quarry of stone.

The Royal Exchange and the Bank ought not to be forgotten. The exchange is not the largest, but it is certainly the most magnificent in the world. It is decorated with statues of the kings of Great Britain, and surrounded by a prodigious number of coffee-houses, where the merchants transact their business. Its situation is extremely convenient, being only a few steps from the Post-office, the Mansion-house, Guildhall, the India-house, &c. &c. &c.

Although the bank is only one story high, it is nevertheless a fine building. Most of the apartments are lighted from the top, and the stoves are contrived with so much art, that neither the door nor the tunnel can be perceived: each of these cost a hundred pounds sterling. As the bank is the property of the nation, all the offices in this immense edifice are open to every one; in the outer hall, there are tables on which pens, ink, &c. are placed for even the lowest of the populace, although they may have no business there.

How-

However trivial these little circumstances may appear to some people, I cannot but admire even in them that republican spirit which animates the whole nation.

The shops and warehouses, which join each other, and sometimes extend for a whole mile without interruption, strike a foreigner with surprise. The part towards the street generally consists of a bow-window and a glass-door, through which every article that is elegant and fashionable may be seen, arranged with the utmost taste and symmetry.

Mathematical instruments, and every thing curious in that science, which for rarity and perfection are not to be surpassed in the palaces of princes, appear in abundance. Nothing can be more superb than the silver-smiths' shops. In looking at the prodigious quantity of plate piled up and exposed there, one can only form a proper idea of the riches of the nation. The greatest shops in *St. Honoré* at Paris, appear contemptible when compared with those in London. I have seen in Cheapside (and it is a well known fact) a warehouse of this kind, the contents of

which were estimated at a hundred thousand pounds sterling.

The print-shops are actually so many galleries of painting. To the number of privileges enjoyed by these islanders may be added that of publishing *caricatures*, which ridicule the occurrences of the times.

The French compose songs ; the Dutch, of a duller cast, strike medals ; but the English have chosen *engravings* as the most proper vehicle for their satire. In 1784, when Mr. Fox carried every thing before him in the House of Commons, he was represented sitting at a mirror which reflected the picture of Oliver Cromwell.

The government of the city is an exact copy in miniature of that of the whole kingdom. Like the latter, it is divided into three distinct branches; the lord mayor represents the king ; the court of aldermen the House of Peers, and the common council the House of Commons. The latter are chosen by the *livery*, who form a body of nine thousand citizens. There are no emoluments attached to the rank of alderman ; it is the honour, the influence, and the hope of becoming the chief magis-

magistrate, which makes that situation desirable. However, if the office of alderman is not lucrative, no expence is entailed on the execution of it :—but that of sheriff often amounts to two or three thousand pounds sterlⁱng in a single year.

When Wilkes was appointed to this office, his friends subscribed the necessary sums. This being the first step towards the mayoralty, the court employed every artifice to prevent him, but in vain. As the influence of the minister is very trifling in the corporation, it so happens that the citizens of London are not very much in favour at St. James's: they, however, console themselves with the best grace in the world. They repeat with great pleasure a witty expression made use of by one of their body, in the reign of Charles II. That monarch being greatly discontented with the citizens, who would not consent to *lend* him certain sums to support his foolish dissipation, one day menaced a deputation who presented him an address, with the threat of leaving London and keeping his court at Oxford. An alderman on this occasion, turning towards a courtier, observed, “That the king seemed to “be in a great passion.” “I hope, however,” adds he, “that when his majesty removes, he

"will not carry the river Thames along with
"him." This sally had its proper effect, and
no English monarch has ever since thought pro-
per to express a similar intention.

No person can become a liveryman of London without being admitted into one of the twenty-six companies, of which that body consists. A member whose name is registered in any of these may aspire to the first employments in the capital, notwithstanding he may be one of the very dregs of the people; such as a taylor, a blacksmith, &c. &c. When princes and people of quality are presented with the freedom of the city of London, they are always requested to name their *trade*; and it is generally that of the lord mayor that is fixed upon. The present king of Denmark is a member of the goldsmiths' company.

The lord mayor sits every day at the Mansion-house to distribute justice, which he does without *appeal* in trifling disputes; in matters of greater consequence the culprit is sent to prison, and takes his trial in the usual manner.

If the chief magistrate for a moment should
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depart from the line of conduct prescribed to him by the laws, he is obliged to submit to justice like one of the meanest citizens.

As there are no justices of the peace in the city, the aldermen supply their place, and settle petty differences. Like all other magistrates, they are obliged to release a prisoner on giving bail, except in the cases of high-treason and felony.

The office of lord mayor is not only very honourable, but has also a considerable revenue annexed to it. The citizens look upon him as their *king*. The number of his attendants, his equipages, and his rich liveries, give a certain degree of splendour to this dignity. He is addressed by the title of "My lord," even by the sovereign. A prodigious number of privileges are attached to his office. The military cannot enter the city without his permission, nor can any seaman be impressed there, unless he backs the warrant. He is also conservator of the Thames.

The principal part of his revenue proceeds from the sale of places that become vacant dur-

ing his mayoralty. It is always customary, on entering upon his charge, to give a great entertainment which concludes with a ball: all the nobility are invited on the occasion; very few, however, attend.

It is very uncommon to see the same person twice lord mayor. William Beckford, however, who to uncommon knowledge and great patriotism united a revenue of thirty thousand a year, was for the second time invested with this dignity in 1769. He was consequently in that office in 1770, the time when the city, and a great number of the English counties, petitioned the sovereign to call a new parliament; for that had, by its conduct in regard to Wilkes, entirely lost the favour of the public: but the king, who thought it his interest to continue it, constantly refused the request. The city of London, however, reiterated their complaints; and the lord mayor, the sheriffs, and common council were continually going to St. James's, where his majesty, according to custom, received them on the throne; the answer, however, was uniformly the same, viz.
 " That the king was content with his parliament; but, as he always should esteem it a pleasure to attend to the solicitations of his people,
 " that

"that he would consider of their petition, &c;
" &c."

Beckford, who was disgusted at being obliged, on account of his situation, to act the first character in this farce, secretly resolved to treat the affair in a more serious manner.

In consequence of this, he repairs with a numerous train to court, reads the petition, and receives the usual reply. It is then the custom, after kissing his majesty's hand, to retire; but Beckford, who had not gone there on account of a ceremony so little conformable to the genius of a free people, turned towards the king, and addressed him again in a speech delivered with the most profound respect, but at the same time with the most undaunted firmness, beseeching his majesty "not to treat the petition of the first city in "his kingdom with so much indifference, but to "yield to the continual solicitations of his "people."

This address was not only unexpected, but even without example. I myself was one of the spectators, and I confess that I never in my whole life have been witness to such an extraordi-

nary

uary affair. The confusion and dismay of the courtiers were perceptible in their countenances, while the citizens shewed in the most unequivocal manner, that the courage of their chief magistrate gave them the highest satisfaction.

In the mean time Mr. Beckford stood before them, and with the utmost tranquillity expected the royal answer. As the king, however, was not *prepared*, a profound silence reigned for some minutes in the audience chamber, during which the spectators appeared mute and stupefied. At last the lord mayor, thinking it time to put an end to such a strange scene, bowed and departed.

One may easily imagine how much they were disgusted with this conduct at St. James's, where they termed it impudent, and threatened to commit his lordship to the Tower: in the city, however, he was presented with the thanks of the corporation, which were accompanied with the most flattering marks of regard and esteem.

Being obliged eight days afterwards to return to St. James's to congratulate his majesty on the safe delivery of the queen, the lord chamberlain,

after

after having mentioned his former behaviour, informed him at the same time, that a repetition of such a conduct would occasion the city of London to be deprived of the privilege of presenting their petitions to the king *while sitting on the throne.*

Beckford on this requested that the declaration might be given him in writing; and, on the refusal of the chamberlain, observed, that he should consider such a menace as if it had not been uttered.

This great patriot happening to die a few months afterwards, the city of London erected a monument to his memory in Guildhall. It is of white marble, and as large as the life. He is dressed in his robes; stands in the same position as when replying to his majesty's answer; and, instead of an inscription, the speech itself is engraven on the pedestal.

It is not at all uncommon to see an orator turn towards this statue, invoke the *manes* of Beckford, and conjure his fellow-citizens by the memory of this great man, never to lose sight of the public welfare. It is in this manner that

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those illustrious islanders so gloriously imitate the ancient Romans, and prove by their actions how advantageous patriotism is to a nation, notwithstanding it may sometimes be carried to a blameable excess.

CHAPTER V.

*The State of Religion in England—Toleration—
The Catholics—The Clergy—The Puritans—
The Methodists—Whitfield—Sunday—Anniver-
sary of the Martyrdom of Charles I.—Quakers
—Anabaptists—Deism—The Reverend Mr. Wil-
liams—Suicide—Hon. Mr. Damer—Lord
Clive—The Jews—Doctor Falkon—The Philoso-
pher's Stone—Linguet.*

VOLTAIRE observes that, if there was only one religion in England, despotism would infallibly ensue:—if there were but two, adds he, they would cut one another's throats; but as such a number of sects are there tolerated, who worship the Supreme Being in so many different manners, a *holy enthusiasm* never troubles

troubles their minds, and they live in quiet and tranquillity. This remark is undoubtedly just ; and the tumult in 1780, in which the name of the protestant religion was made use of as a pretence, proves nothing to the contrary.

The legislative power has reduced the principles of toleration to a system which seems to have attained the highest degree of perfection ; and it ought to be remarked to the honour of the English parliament, that at the moment when they were surrounded by a furious multitude, and the life of every member was in danger, no one proposed the repeal of the bill in favour of the Roman Catholics, which had occasioned the tumult.

If the tenets of the established faith were alone permitted, the people would soon groan under the pressure of slavery ; for the king is head of the church, and in that capacity his power is unlimited.

Persecution, a practice which the christians have borrowed from the jews, and which they have made use of against them, will never, in all probability, take root in England. The prodigious number of dissenters ; the liberty with which mankind

mankind are there allowed to think and to act as they please ; their intercourse with foreign nations, which is the source of their riches ; and a thousand other considerations, all tend to establish that toleration to which the kingdom owes its grandeur, its opulence, and its prosperity.

It may not be improper to quote here a celebrated saying of lord Chesterfield's to a monk at Rome. The holy zealot having assured him that he was about to make a voyage to England, with the sole view of converting the inhabitants to the catholic faith, and *that he was ready to suffer every thing for the sake of religion* : " You will be too late, my good father," replies the earl : " it is in vain that you are solicitous to obtain the crown of martyrdom ; alas ! my ungrateful countrymen bestow it now no more."

To obtain any employment under the government, it is necessary to take the oaths of supremacy and allegiance ; but as the catholics either cannot or will not take them, they are deprived of a great many advantages, and excluded from a number of offices, to which their birth and their merits fully entitle them.

The first and most ancient family in England
is

is in this predicament : it is that of Howard, of which the duke of Norfolk is the head ; to this title the office of hereditary marshal of England is attached : his religion, however, not only precludes him from executing the duties of this high employment in person, but also from taking his seat in the House of Peers *.

The catholics in England have their bishops as well as the protestants : these commonly reside in London, and live on eleemosynary contributions. Among these *titular* prelates there is an archbishop of Canterbury, who is their head. In the year 1778 there were forty thousand members of the church of Rome in the capital ; I doubt whether there are at present so many in all the other parts of the kingdom, as the chapels of the foreign ministers attract prodigious numbers to the metropolis. There are a great many, however, in Lancashire, Staffordshire, and Sussex.

Notwithstanding the clergy of the church of England have large incomes, and its dignitaries

* Since our author wrote, lord Surry, now a member of the church of England, has succeeded to the dukedom of Norfolk.

live in great magnificence, they are but very little respected by the people. The reason is evident. The various sects that prevail in that island, weaken the interests of religion in general, and inspire but little esteem for these ecclesiastics, who live, for the most part, according to their own caprice. The excesses also, and the depredations they commit, lessen the respect that their sacred function ought to inspire. Soon after the execution of Dr. Dodd for forgery, another priest was punished for debauching young girls from ten to twelve years of age, whom he had been employed to instruct in the principles of morality and religion.

It is common to see clergymen fight duels ;— I shall say nothing of their drunkenness, and a thousand other scandalous vices which they practise without shame. They are often imprisoned for debt ; and it is only twenty years since, that they used to administer one of the most awful ceremonies of religion, for a mere trifle.

They do not now celebrate clandestine marriages : formerly it was not necessary to run to Scotland to marry against the will of parents and guardians ; a number of wretches were ready at all

all times of the day to bestow the nuptial benediction for the sum of two shillings. When one of them had pawned his gown—a circumstance not at all uncommon—he used to officiate in a brown or grey coat, and tie the *happy pair* as firmly together as a prelate clothed in his pontifical vestments, and administering the ceremony at the altar of his cathedral.

The church of England is governed by two archbishops and twenty-four bishops. The archbishop of Canterbury, who is the chief, is at the same time primate of England, and ranks next to the princes of the blood. He has twenty-one bishops under him; the remaining three are suffragans of the archbishop of York. All these prelates sit in the House of Peers, and are commonly devoted to the interests of the court. It is very uncommon to see them take part in the political debates, even if they are eloquent, for fear of exposing their dignity, which the peers in opposition would not, perhaps, have the modesty to respect.

As the clergy in all ages, and among all people, could never brook contradiction; and as this prerogative, which they arrogate to themselves, is not allowed in England, they have very wisely resolved

resolved to remain silent, and be altogether passive in parliament.

In the ages of barbarity and ignorance a law was enacted in favour of the church, equally singular and ridiculous; and as it formed one of the privileges of a numerous and powerful body, it would be very difficult, even now, to repeal it. At the time when the civil and ecclesiastical states formed two separate and distinct bodies, and when none but the priesthood had any knowledge of learning, if a culprit was able to decypher a few of the Gothic characters in which the Bible was then written, he was allowed to escape from punishment.

As every one is able to read at this enlightened period, the penal statutes have now always a clause, excluding the benefit of clergy.

The principles of toleration adopted by the English, account for the little zeal displayed by them in making proselytes to their religion.

Scarce a single missionary is to be met with in all their immense territories in Asia. There are only a few methodists, and some anabaptists, led thither by enthusiasm.

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The laws oblige every ship navigated by a hundred men to carry a clergyman with them ; this is strictly observed in all the king's ships ; the East India company, however, regarding the church as a very unprofitable part of a cargo, take only ninety-nine men on board, and thus evade the statute. That opulent body never trouble themselves about religion ; for throughout all Bengal there is neither church nor chapel.

The puritans are properly nothing else but Calvinists ; for all their ceremonies and principles are founded on the doctrines of that reformer. The French protestants, however, do not join in their communion, but, as in Germany, follow their own liturgy, and perform divine service to this day in the French language. Their countrymen are ready to conclude from thence, that to restore so many thousands to their native soil, the free exercise of their religion is only wanting. I doubt, however, whether such a toleration would make any impression on the *refugees* in England or Holland, and far less on those who reside in Germany.

The methodists form a very numerous body : Whitfield was their founder. He was a man of profound knowledge and inflexible virtue, and has

has only died a few years since. It was customary with him to preach in the most frequented streets and squares in London. His intention was, to reform and purify the morals of his fellow-citizens. The novelty of his sermons, and the place where he delivered them, always procured him a numerous auditory. The clergy were alarmed, and all the pulpits resounded with imprecations against this man, who was described as at once a fool and a fanatic. From that moment the people began to persecute this zealous reformer, wherever he had the courage to appear. To outrage he opposed sweetness of temper and invincible patience; and, by means of this sage conduct, multiplied the number of his adherents. People of distinction, who visited him from curiosity, often became his disciples.

His sobriety and discretion were very remarkable: his honesty also was unimpeachable; for he distributed, with a scrupulous exactness, the alms that were confided to his care. At length, being incapable of administering the duties of his mission to such immense crowds as attended him daily, he called in the assistance of some of his friends, and particularly of the celebrated Mr. Wesley. Soon after he built a church in the neighbourhood of Moor-fields, called The Tabernacle,

nacle, which is still held in high estimation by his followers; many of whom have erected houses in the neighbourhood.

Whitfield went four times to America to preach this doctrine, and was amply rewarded for his zeal. If ever the chief of a sect merited the esteem of a philosopher, it is without contradiction this singular man. Without being impelled by ambition, or avarice, to carry on his projected reformation, he remained till his last moment faithful to his *aim*; which was, to make mankind better by means of a purer system of morals.

It is easy to perceive from the *phlegm* with which the English perform the duties of their religion, that they are very little impressed by a sense of its awfulness. Even in a collegiate church, when they are *chaunting* in full choir, the cold, inanimate, and sometimes irreverent manner in which they acquit themselves, shocks the feelings of a stranger.

The clergy and the laity who wish to pass for good christians, seem to think that abstaining from all work and worldly affairs on a Sunday entitles them to such denomination. This Judai-
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cal and popular custom is supported by a statute which was enacted when puritanism was in full vigour, and which has not a little contributed to that gloomy taciturnity which forms such a conspicuous feature in an Englishman's character.

The above law prohibits the amusements of music and dancing on the only day when the tradesman or mechanic has time to divert himself.

We cannot but deplore the weakness of human nature on beholding great and enlightened men becoming the zealous partizans of ridiculous and even pernicious customs. The learned Dr. Johnson was so attached to this in particular, that, on his death-bed, he conjured Sir Joshua Reynolds to grant him one request:—The English Apelles promised his assent—and found it to be—“ That he would not paint *on a Sunday*.”

The pulpit is often made use of in the capital to insinuate and propagate political principles. The court party generally make use of this method, which is notwithstanding always hurtful to their interests. The clergy on such occasions are invariably led by the hope of preferment: no one,

however, is *duped* by their conduct. When they confine themselves to subjects in which politics are not concerned, they are for the most part heard with attention.

Soon after the earthquake at Lisbon, they declaimed against masquerades, and occasioned the abolition of that species of amusement for many years.

By proving that *inoculation* was an useful and a necessary operation, they brought it into fashion : they even went so far as to interest the conscience of parents, and make it appear a duty.

All *fasts* are appointed by the king, as head of the church. Those days are not so solemn as Sundays : they are, however, literally *penitentiary* to the poor, who by means of them are prevented from procuring food for their wives and children.

The anniversary of the unfortunate Charles I. which is celebrated on the 30th of January, has now degenerated into a *mere farce*. Wilkes once asserted in the House of Commons, that this day was the most glorious in the annals of his country !

I beg

I beg leave to observe here, that the opinions concerning any monarch of modern times have never been so contradictory, as in respect to that sovereign. Among many, he passes as a state criminal who merited his fate: the greater number, however, revere him as a saint who was the innocent victim of a party composed of fanatical and ambitious men.

The famous Hume has not a little contributed, in his History of England, to propagate this latter opinion. The end he proposed was undoubtedly to sacrifice the public confidence, of which every historian ought to be ambitious, on the altar of riches and preferment. At the reign of Elizabeth he leaves the right road, and ceases to follow the track of truth. Those who wish to investigate the history of that country under the government of the house of Stuart, can follow no better guide than Rapin de Thoyras; an impartial writer, who has proved all his assertions by authentic documents, and by that means acquired and maintained an extraordinary degree of reputation in England.

But if we will suppose for a moment that the innocence of Charles is only imaginary, it must be allowed that a free people, who have established

certain principles of their own concerning the laws and the rights of human nature, are alone capable of judging whether, in such a case, a head encircled by a royal diadem merits the hatchet of an executioner. The philosopher of another country can only think in his closet on this tragical and memorable event.

I now return to my subject. The Quakers in England, twenty years ago, amounted to sixty thousand : they are not so numerous at present. The young men, in whom religious fervour is not so ardent as formerly, abjure a faith which excludes them from all employments and dignities. The young women, too, are by it limited in their ambition, with regard to marriage ; and their vanity is not a little mortified, with respect to dress, which is so natural to their age and sex. As they cannot use fancy colours, nor wear powder, feathers, ribbands, nor jewels, they usually wear the dearest stuffs : this does not, however, compensate for what they lose in regard to other parts of their apparel.

The coats of the men are generally without buttons and without plaits ; the hats are also large and round : many, however, neglect all this, and appear like other people. The most zealous of

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the sect are those only who still preserve an outward distinction: their aversion to oaths and criminal prosecutions is a characteristic common to all.

The legislative power has been exceedingly indulgent towards them. Their solemn affirmation is admitted in every case where the life or liberty of the subject is not interested. One never sees a quaker the prosecutor in a criminal action. Their aversion to war is so great, that, during the invasion of the savages of Pennsylvania in 1775, they allowed their country to be ravaged, and their fellow-citizens to be massacred, without choosing to revenge them. They remained deaf to all their calamities and misfortunes; and it was not till despair had taken possession of their souls, and the dead bodies of their slaughtered brethren had been exposed before the state-house at Philadelphia, that the quakers consented to take up arms.

The Anabaptists decrease in numbers, and for the very same reason as the quakers. They do not affect to distinguish themselves from the rest of mankind by the originality of their dress, manners, or language.

It is at Chelsea, a village beautifully situated on the banks of the Thames, where their principal place of worship is ; they have also several others in London.

Notwithstanding the prodigious number of different persuasions in England, *deism* makes a rapid progress. The reverend Mr. Williams, in the year 1776, formed the resolution of establishing a new sect. In consequence of this, he hired a chapel in the metropolis, and procured a great number of subscribers. This hardy attempt made much noise. Two letters, one from the late king of Prussia, and the other written by Voltaire to this clergyman, in which these two great men bestowed many praises on his undertaking, helped to make the attempt still more remarkable. As this projector joined some talents to a great knowledge of the world, he put in practice every scheme to establish his enterprise. One might then see a circumstance before unexampled in the annals of mankind : a numerous assembly composed of people of all religions united under one head, laying aside all manner of mysteries and ceremonies, and adoring the God of the universe in concert. The service had something in it very engaging on account of its simplicity ; but its sameness was not sufficiently fascinating

fascinating to mankind in general. To the *deist* it was, however, too ceremonious ; because it is very difficult to persuade him of the utility of any form of worship whatever.

In fine, the scheme failed. These meetings have not been held for some years past ; and the chapel is now become a conventicle for methodists. Williams has published his liturgy. It is an excellent work ; has had much success, and is still read with pleasure.

Deism is in a great degree the cause of suicide—a crime at present so common in England. The English have actually a form of prayer, in which they beseech God to banish from the hearts of his servants such a frightful temptation !

The crime, however, is as frequently committed at Paris as in London ; a circumstance which proves very forcibly to me, that this epidemic disorder proceeds less from the climate and the use of sea-coal fires, than we imagine on the continent. The English view it as a disease of the soul, which, far from deserving reproach, ought rather to excite compassion. The punishment, which, to the disgrace of reason, is still in many countries attached to self-murder, never restrains

despair, which mocks it, but falls wholly on innocent and afflicted families.

This malady (for I can call it no other) often gives occasion to the most singular scenes. I one day beheld an ill-dressed man, with a countenance distorted by a thousand passions, who walked backwards and forwards on the balustrade of Blackfriars-bridge, and seemed to be in the most profound reverie. The danger that he was exposed to, soon made him remarked, and occasioned great quietude to the passengers. One person having urged him to descend, he made no answer: at length some of the spectators becoming more pressing in their entreaties, he asked one of them if he would do him a favour. On being answered in the affirmative, he besought him to find out a certain person, whose dwelling he described with the utmost exactness, and recount to him what he had seen.—With these words he leapt into the Thames.

The conduct of the honourable Mr. Damer, only son to lord Milton, was still more extraordinary, and gave rise to a thousand melancholy reflections. Young, handsome, tenderly beloved by his father, nearly adored by the ladies, and with all the honours and dignities of the state within

within his reach, he conceived a sudden disgust to life.

Having repaired to a bagnio, he commanded twelve of the most handsome women of the town to be brought to him, and gave orders that they should be supplied with all manner of delicacies. Having afterwards bolted the door, he made them undress one another, and, when naked, requested them to amuse him with the most voluptuous attitudes. About an hour afterwards he dismissed them, loaded with presents, and then, drawing a pistol from his pocket, immediately put an end to his existence. This happened in the year 1776.

It is mortifying to reflect that this hatred to existence should have taken possession of the mind of so great a man as lord Clive, who also terminated his glorious career with his own hand. It is neither his rank nor his immense riches, but his great abilities and his extraordinary exploits in Asia, which make him appear great in my eyes. I am convinced that this nobleman, as a general and statesman, would have been equally eminent in Europe as in Asia. Let it be remembered, however, that I speak of nothing but his talents, as I am very careful of

saying much about his private character. If the clamours of plundered and oppressed Indians and Europeans had never reached from the borders of the Ganges to the banks of the Thames, his immense riches alone would have attested his insatiable avarice. All his treasures, however, could not prevent a prosecution against him, which exposed his character to obloquy, and his conduct to observation; and which, by insensibly augmenting the melancholy that had long preyed on his mind, precipitated that fatal resolution which delivered mankind from the scourge of Asia.

The Jews are allowed in England, as well as in Holland, the free exercise of their religion; their numbers and their riches are therefore continually augmenting. One is astonished at the prodigious difference between the Portuguese and German Jews established in that island. Dress, language, manners, cleanliness, are all in favour of the former, who indeed can scarce be distinguished from Christians. This extends even to their prejudices and their public worship: the features peculiar to the whole race are the only peculiarity that they have in common.

The famous Toland, in the year 1715, recommended the naturalization of this people ; a circumstance that actually took place in 1752, by means of an act of parliament. However, the general discontent of the nation, occasioned by the German Jews (a class of men who may be looked upon as the very refuse of human nature), obliged the legislature to repeal it in the course of the following year.

All the children of Israel, who are obliged to quit Holland and Germany, take refuge in England, where they live by roguery : if they themselves do not steal, they at least help to conceal and to dispose of the plunder. They are therefore so much hated in England, that the honesty of their Portuguese brethren cannot weaken the unfavourable impression which such a band of robbers has occasioned.

There is a person of this nation called Cain Chenul Falk, but better known by the name of Doctor Falkon, who for thirty years has been famous for his cabalistical discoveries. He lives in a large house ; is attended by a small number of domestics ; is engaged in no manner of business ; and gives away a great deal of money to the poor. When he goes out, which is indeed

but seldom, he is always clothed in a long robe, which agrees very well with his flowing beard, and noble figure. He is now in the 70th year of his age. I shall not here recount the wonderful and incredible stories told of this old man. It is most probable that he is a very great chymist; and that he has, in that occult science, made some extraordinary discoveries, which he does not choose to communicate. A certain prince, who was very zealous in his search after the philosopher's stone, some years ago wished to pay him a visit. Falkon, however, could not be prevailed upon to grant him an interview.

It may be easily imagined that, in a city like London, there are a great number of weak people who may be easily imposed upon. As the English have a high opinion of the German alchymists, the projectors of that country often pretend to have found out the art of making gold, and dupe them of their guineas by means of this stale trick.

Magic, contented with exercising its despotism within the ten circles of High Germany, has not as yet, by a bold flight, attempted to cross the ocean.

ocean. If this silly and ridiculous passion were ever to take root in England, its effects would be very uncommon in that country, where every thing is in extremes.

In the year 1777, Linguet went to London with the professed intention of reforming the national character : he had, however, unfortunately neglected to learn the language.

This Frenchman was always fond of paradoxes. His pride was flattered to see certain objects in a different light from the rest of mankind ; he had, in his own country, written a panegyric on the virtues of a Tiberius and a Nero—two monsters, who were a disgrace to human nature. He affirms, “ That England never produced any one great man ; that its boasted constitution does not preserve liberty to the subject ; that the inhabitants are not industrious ; that their navy is contemptible ; that their sailors are both ignorant and cowardly ; and, lastly, that Garrick was a bad actor.”

Under pretence that he was afraid of being persecuted by the English government, this singular

singular man suddenly disappeared, and returned to his ungrateful countrymen, who recompensed his patriotism with a lodging in the Bastile.

CHAPTER VI.

*Public Spirit—National Characteristics—Hospitals
—General Wolf—The Duke de Nivernois—Generosity of the English Ladies—Maria Theresa—
Lord Tyrconnel—Lord Chatham.*

ONE of the most distinguishing characteristics of the English is their *public spirit*; a virtue unknown in any other country, and which no other language than theirs is able to express. This passion consists in the active zeal of every individual, to co-operate towards the general good: the very lowest of the people possess it in a very extraordinary degree.

During the American war, many common ~~sai-~~
~~lors~~

lors refused the bounty that was offered by parliament, and entered into the navy from mere attachment to their country. I have known several poor people, who, at a general election, have remained deaf to the most lucrative offers, and reserved their voices for those who, by their patriotism and their talents, were most capable of serving the state.

The great number of public foundations every where to be met with, prove in an eminent degree the warmth of this national virtue. Without mentioning either the naval hospital of Greenwich, or the military establishment at Chelsea, which rival royal palaces in magnificence, London contains a prodigious number of public edifices which are regulated with astonishing order. St. Bartholomew's hospital alone can admit 5000 patients at one time. Bedlam, which is appropriated to the cure of madness, is celebrated for its conveniences, and the attention which is paid to the unfortunate wretches who happen to be afflicted with that terrible malady. At the gate are two statues, executed by an English artist, of the name of * Cibber, which may be reckoned among the few excellent specimens

* Father to Colley Cibber.

of sculpture which England has produced. One of these represents a wretch absorbed in the most profound melancholy ; the other, a desperate maniac loaded with chains. These two figures are executed with so much expression, that they may dispute the palm with the first performances in Westminster-abbey.

In regard to works of national munificence, and public utility, the court party and the opposition constantly unite. Even in places of diversion, the English endeavour to excite patriotism. The most brilliant actions of some of the most famous of their generals are represented in the saloon at Vauxhall. It is thus that the memory of a Clive, a Boscawen, and an Amherst are immortalized ; and that their fellow-citizens are inflamed, even in the very lap of pleasure, with the noble emulation of rivalling their virtues.

The source of this lively interest, which every Englishman evinces in the affairs of his country, proceeds from the idea, that the very meanest subject is benefited by the prosperity of the commonwealth. This gives rise to the most singular customs. After a victory, they compliment each other. The glory of a state, of which every individual is a member, sometimes affects them

in such a manner, that I have seen persons remarkable for their phlegm, congratulate one another with the utmost transports of joy.

It is not till become venerable by age, that the human eye, which observes every thing too near it in a bad light, is at length accustomed to see things in their true point of view. We regard with an attachment bordering on enthusiasm, the actions of the great men of antiquity, and pay but a cold admiration to the same actions, when performed by our contemporaries. Of this the name of general Wolfe is a striking example.

Those who are acquainted with the events of the war before the last, must recollect that this great man perished before Quebec in the arms of victory; but few, perhaps, know that to him alone the glory of conquering Canada belongs.

Both the navy and army were agreed on the propriety of raising the siege of Quebec, which was deemed impregnable. Wolfe alone thought otherwise, and he was triumphant. In the midst of the action, having received a mortal wound, he immediately fainted, and was carried out of the

the field of battle. In the mean time the enemy's line being broken, some of the soldiers employed in attending him called out, "They fly." These words, as it were, penetrating to his very soul, recall him to life; he opens his eyes, and asks with great eagerness, "Who fly?"—"The French." "Then God be praised!" he replied, —and immediately expired.

Epaminondas in the same manner died invoking the gods for victory with his last breath:

The duke of Nivernois, who went into England in the year 1762, in quality of ambassador extraordinary from the court of Versailles, to sign the peace betwixt England and France, experienced the effects of the national spirit in a very uncommon manner. The first night after his arrival, having slept at Canterbury, the master of the inn thought that he ought not to let slip such a good occasion of making a long bill. "A nobleman," says he, "of so elevated a rank, charged with the reconciliation of two great nations after a bloody war, will not signalize his entry into the kingdom by a dispute with a tavern-keeper about a reckoning." He accordingly demanded fifty guineas next morning for

for a night's lodging. The impudence of the charge astonished his grace ; who paid it, however, without hesitation, continued his journey, and soon forgot the petty imposition, leaving the inn-keeper in raptures ; who, thinking that the whole affair was a secret, plumed himself upon his management.

The inhabitants of Canterbury, however, happening to hear of the circumstance, notwithstanding their natural antipathy to the French, were seized with indignation, and thought that the national honour was concerned in the punishment of it. In consequence of this, the first people in that city assembled together, and besought the duke to bring the delinquent to justice. The ambassador thanked them for their intentions, but would not hear of a prosecution. These gentlemen, therefore, resolved to punish him themselves. The inn, kept by this fellow, was the largest and best frequented in the whole town ; the resort to it was prodigious ; the neighbouring gentlemen held their clubs and assemblies in that place. On being informed of this circumstance, they all with one accord determined never to enter the house any more. The landlord put every scheme in practice to bring back his customers ; but they
were

were deaf to his prayers and entreaties. In this situation he was assailed by his creditors, and in a few months experienced all the horrors of poverty. He died some years afterwards in London, where he had resided in the situation of a waiter.

Such circumstances of national spirit are not uncommon in England : they are, however, related to us in Germany in such a fantastical manner, that, instead of exciting sentiments of admiration, they only occasion us to smile.

The generous resolution of the English ladies in 1742, is an anecdote extremely well known. The misfortunes of Maria Theresa affected them so deeply, that they unanimously resolved to dispose of their jewels, and send her imperial majesty the produce of them, to help her to carry on the war against her enemies. They accordingly opened a subscription. The old duchess of Marlborough gave 20,000*l.* and the sum total amounted in a few days to 100,000*l.* sterling. The empress, however, refused the offer, and in a most affecting letter, after returning her thanks for their generous intentions, observed, that it was the assistance of the whole nation, and not that of individuals, that her majesty could accept of.

If this magnanimous conduct of a few women who knew nothing of Maria Theresa, but her misfortunes, had happened some centuries ago, it would at this day be the object of our admiration and astonishment : it made the most lively impression on the mind of the empress queen.

Strangers, and more particularly the French, are pleased to ridicule the interest which the English take in regard to political transactions ; this *taste* appears to them extremely foolish.

Lord Tyrconnel, a nobleman of Irish extraction, but who, being born and educated in France, had of course adopted their manners, their fashions, and their maxims, when he was thirty years of age visited England for the first time. As he understood the language extremely well, he was obliged to hear political discussions wherever he went ; so that his aversion to this subject soon amounted to an insurmountable disgust. At last, resolved to divert himself without being eternally plagued about state affairs, he repairs to a bagnio, and invites some females to sup with him : he had, however, scarcely taken his place at table when these female politicians began also to discuss parliamentary questions. His lordship in vain attempted to give another turn

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to the conversation ;—it had too many charms for these nymphs to be dropped so easily ; they always returned to the subject, till at last this frenchified Irishman, losing all patience, left them in a passion, and next day returned to France.

It is seldom or never that an Englishman unites the character of a minister with that of a patriot. The prodigious power, and the facility with which they are enabled to amass astonishing riches, generally make the ministers forget those principles, which, by giving them popularity, raised them to eminence.

Would it be imagined that in a kingdom where the power of the sovereign is restrained, that of his ministers should be more extensive than in most despotic governments ? This is, however, the case in England, where the king, according to the principles of the constitution, can do no *wrong*, and where those whom he employs are obliged to be answerable for every thing. They not only influence parliament ; the honours, the dignities, the very treasure of the nation are confided to their care ;—in fine they dispose of every thing. It is singular enough to see a simple esquire making dukes and earls at his pleasure, bestowing ribbands which he him-

self does not possess, and giving away employments which are at once lucrative and certain, while the duration of his own power depends entirely on the king's pleasure.

Of all the statesmen whom England has produced, no one was ever so zealous a patriot as the immortal Chatham, who joined to extraordinary talents the purest attachment to his country. Never was any English minister so much honoured with the public confidence; and never was there such a happy concord between the king, the parliament, and the people, as under his administration. Alas, it was too short for the welfare of England!

It is thought that, if he had remained two years longer in office, the American war would never have happened, and the flourishing situation in which his country found herself in the year 1762, would have been nothing more than a presage of that glory to which she would have afterwards arrived.

During his administration, all the power of the state appeared to be wholly centered in him, for his associates in the government seemed only so many subalterns acting under his directions.

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By his means Great Britain, with a degree of felicity unexampled before among any of the European nations, was triumphant in the course of one * year, in the four quarters of the globe.

France never had so dangerous an enemy :— it was a principle with him to humble that formidable power.

He was not fond of a court ;—during the time of peace, he could scarce hide his aversion to it, as he was persuaded that it was impossible to be at the same time the favourite of the sovereign and the friend of the people.

Notwithstanding his infirmities, he *never failed*, even towards the latter end of his life, to pay the most exact attention to his parliamentary duties : wrapped up in flannels, and supported by crutches, his voice was a terror to the ministry. He may be truly said to have died in the service of his country ; having been seized with a mortal distemper in the midst of a speech in the House of Peers, in which he asserted its dearest interests.

* 1759.

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At the very last moment of his life, his mind was occupied by the cares of patriotism. Lord Camden was present at his dissolution. This nobleman was the intimate friend of the hero ; his integrity, his abilities, and an uniformity in principles had conciliated his esteem and rendered him worthy of it. Socrates at his last hour philosophised with his friends ; and these two great men conversed about state affairs at the very brink of eternity. At length, perceiving his death to approach, the noble patriot, after locking his friend's hands in his own, exclaimed “ My dear Camden, save my country ! ” The best proof that can be given of the virtue of this great man, is the consideration, that he was for many years prime minister of Great Britain without either becoming more rich, or more haughty, than while a private gentleman.

~~After his decease, the greatest honours were paid to his memory, the expences of his funeral discharged by the public, and a large pension assigned to his family. His body was accompanied to the grave by most of those who, on account of their birth, their rank, and above all their talents, might be reckoned the greatest men in the state. It was not a slight loss that they deplored~~

deplored—every one was deeply affected; even the spectators were in tears. Colonel Barré, a celebrated orator, and who in Lord Chatham's life-time had often opposed his measures, amidst the emotions of his grief, snatching the banner of the deceased earl from one of his domestics, carried it with his own hand into the church. When the corpse was laid in the grave, the marquis of Lansdowne exclaimed, “The sun of “England is now set for ever.”

CHAPTER VII.

Commerce of the English—The Peace of 1762—The Duke of Bedford—Duc de Choiseul—The Merchants—Sir George Colbrooke—Bank of England.

ALTHOUGH the principal natural productions exported from England are only tin and coal, yet the inhabitants are the first commercial nation in the world. It is to an excellent constitution, wise laws, and an active and indefatigable genius, that this eminent advantage is to be attributed.

It is natural that the last of these qualities, joined to enterprise and prudence, should extend its trade, and add daily to its riches. From this

this also proceeds that spirit of conquest which the English of the present age, and the Carthaginians of old, have interwoven in their commercial system. This has never been the case with the Dutch; their acquisitions were entirely the effect of a happy conjuncture of circumstances at a period when, with arms in their hands, they were obliged to defend their liberties—nay, I may add their lives.

Since the time of Cromwell, the real or pretended reason for all their wars was commerce alone. They never have acceded to any treaty of peace since the protectorate of that great man, (except the unfortunate one of 1783), which did not procure them some incontestable advantages in favour of their trade. All their statesmen, however differently they may have thought in respect to other matters, have agreed unanimously in this great national principle; even in the most critical situations this was never forgotten: the reason is indeed apparent; it alone could make their administration popular, cover their blunders, and acquire them reputation.

If we are to believe the chevalier d'Eon, the late duke of Bedford was one of those infamous ministers, who from venal motives betrayed their

country to France, by the peace of 1762. There can be but little doubt concerning the justice of this accusation, as it came from a person who was at that very time chargé d'affaires, and minister plenipotentiary from the court of Versailles; and who consequently had good opportunities of knowing the fact, and indeed offered to give the most convincing proofs of it.

This nobleman, although he made no difficulty in selling his country for gold, was nevertheless capable of an action seemingly very great, but which had its source in fear; for although an English minister should despise both the king and the parliament, he dare not brave the fury of the people. This dread of the people is a new proof of the excellence of their constitution. A courtier may be surrounded with honours, and invested with dignities; but an open and upright conduct alone can give him reputation and conciliate the favour of his fellow-citizens.

The duke of Bedford, the richest subject in England, was sent in the year 1762 to Paris in quality of ambassador, to sign the peace. He was opposed to the duke de Choiseul, and this universal genius was evidently superior to him in regard to talents. The preliminary articles having

ing been signed, were soon known in Paris, and the next morning an English Jew requested an audience of the duke of Bedford. This man, who had been for many years in Asia, made his grace sensible, that, from an ignorance of the trade and even the geography of that country, he had committed such gross faults that the East India company would lose several thousand pounds sterling yearly by his means, and that the treaty itself would be the occasion of new quarrels between the two nations.

The ambassador saw that the Jew was in the right, and resolved instantly to repair his fault. Having procured the new articles in writing, he immediately departed for Versailles, and besought the duke to have them acceded to. "I did not think," observed Choiseul, "that I had been negotiating with a novice in politics, "but with the minister of a powerful nation, "who knew the validity of a treaty signed with "his own hand." The duke of Bedford replied to this reproach with all the boldness and noble frankness of a true Englishman. "You are in "the right—I am but a novice, and not an ex- "perienced minister. I have erred through ig- "norance; but I shall not by a base treason "aggravate the fault which I have committed,
"for

" for to be silent in a case of this importance
 " would be actually to merit the name of a trai-
 " tor. Choose therefore for youself — either
 " consent to make the proposed alteration which
 " I have mentioned to you, or I shall instantly
 " depart and lay my head at the mercy of the
 " English parliament."

A peace was then absolutely necessary for France : the duke de Choiseul agreed to some of the propositions ; and, if we may believe report, the negociation was hastened, by a present.

The profession of commerce is highly esteemed in England, and is honoured and considered as the source of all the wealth of the state. A merchant may become a justice of the peace, or a member of parliament ; in fine, he may aspire to the first dignities, provided his talents correspond with his ambition.

Even tradesmen are held in some degree of respect, and indeed seem entitled to it both by their behaviour and their riches. Some of them are exceedingly affluent. I myself know that

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the late duke of Newcastle owed his butcher no less than 11,000*l.* at one time.

The love of convenience, to which the English are so much attached, makes them confide their cash to the care of a banker. Not only merchants, but also wealthy people in private life, and sometimes even the public offices, deposit their money in this manner. There were forty-eight banking houses in the metropolis in the year 1784.

The eminent merchants also open accounts with the bank of England, which receives more than half the ready money in the kingdom, and in return circulates its own paper.

None but very rich people ever become bankers ; of these two, three, or four, generally associate together, and deposit a large sum of money to answer the necessary demands. The duke of Marlborough generally keeps 15, or 20,000*l.* in the hands of Child ; Drummond often has 100,000*l.* sterling belonging to the Admiralty and War-office.

About twelve years since Sir George Colbrooke exhibited a wonderful example of that thirst after wealth, with which some men are so unfortunately cursed. This gentleman was a member of parliament, the first banker in London, and for many years chairman of the East-India company. He gave great entertainments, kept a numerous retinue of servants, and could command any sum of money. Would it be imagined that such a man could ever be ruined by a speculation upon alum? It is actually a fact, that having attempted to monopolise this article, and by that means acquire a new accession to his immense fortune, he failed in his project, and became a bankrupt. His poverty was at length so great that he was obliged to solicit support from that very company whose affairs he had formerly directed with unbounded sway.

Having obtained with some difficulty an annuity of two hundred per annum, he went to France and lived for many years at Boulogne.

On the commencement of the war, in the year 1778, the court of France, who had given orders for the departure of all the English from that

that kingdom, were so affected with his catastrophe, that an exception was made in favour of him and his family.

The order and regularity which prevail in the bank of England are truly admirable. It is reckoned that the notes lost annually by shipwreck, fire and other accidents, pay all the expences of this great establishment. The duke de Choiseul once attempted to ruin its credit; for some days there was a continual demand upon it, and the directors taking fright, began to pay in silver, which was counted out very slowly by the clerks. The emissaries of France every where prognosticated its downfal; all England was alarmed: it was saved, however, by the public spirit of the merchants, the principal of whom associated together, and agreed to take its notes in payments.

The East India company keep their money in the bank of England, and have been known on the arrival of a fleet, to give a draft of 160,000 l. sterling for the duties, on a small slip of paper.

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Some years since a Hertfordshire farmer applied to one of the clerks of the bank for the loan of 800 l. for a few days, on a note of 10,000 l. which he held in his hand, and offered to deposit with him. The clerk refused him, observing that such a thing was unusual, at the same time offering either to pay him the whole amount in cash, or exchange it for lesser notes. This, however, would not satisfy the farmer, who still persevered.—What would have been done to a peasant in such a case, either in France or Germany ! He would have been beat by the domestics, and then pushed into the street.

He may thank his stars for having been born in England. Instead of such treatment, at his own request he was waited upon by Mr. Payne, one of the directors, who instantly lent him the money required.

Having returned, according to his promise, at the end of eight days, and punctually repaid the sum which he had borrowed, on being asked, why he had such an attachment to that

particular note, he frankly replied, " Because I
" have the fellow of it at home."

Notwithstanding it is extremely difficult to counterfeit a bank-note, more especially on account of the water-mark, which is imprinted on the paper while making, yet the allurements arising from success have induced many to make the attempt. In the year 1776, a great number were issued, in which the original was imitated with wonderful art. The fraud was not discovered until notes to the amount of thirty-six thousand pounds sterling had been circulated among the public.

After prodigious trouble and expence, the bank at last discovered, seized, and imprisoned the ingenious culprit.

This circumstance gave occasion to an event, which puts human nature to the blush; it is, indeed, so diabolically atrocious, that one would readily believe it to be an anecdote borrowed from the annals of the infernal regions.

The person who had committed the forgery was of the name of Morton; he was a young man of a reputable family, and as soon as apprehended

prehended was carried to gaol, and being put in irons, languished amidst all the horrors naturally inspired by a criminal prosecution.

The governors of the bank were exceedingly rejoiced, as they hoped, in the course of the trial, to discover the whole of this mysterious affair, which levelled at the very source of their credit.

It was on this idea that a pretended friend of Morton's founded his infernal project. This person, whose name was D—, repairs to the prison, informs the young man how much he was affected with his unhappy destiny, and assures him that he is disposed to attempt every stratagem to snatch him from inevitable destruction.

A friend in such a situation is always welcome. The prisoner, who expected nothing else than an infamous and speedy death, thinks that he sees his guardian angel before him, and puts his destiny entirely in the power of the traitor, who in a short time, by means of money and ingenuity, accomplishes his escape from the dungeon where he was confined.

Every thing being prepared for flight, Morton next morning has the inexpressible satisfaction of seeing himself at liberty, and in the dominions of France. He changes his name, takes the road to Flanders, and arriving at Bruges, resolves to reside there.

D— in the mean time had not lost sight of his plan. He proposes to the bank, who were greatly embarrassed at the escape of Morton, to deliver him into their hands on condition of receiving the sum of 5000 l. as a reward.

The governors thought that this was too high a premium, and perhaps imagined, with great justice, that a man who offered to betray his friend for five thousand pounds, would find no great reluctance in committing the same villainy for one thousand ; and he seeing that he could obtain no more, at length gave his consent.

In the mean time that passion which the English entertain for their native country preyed so violently on the mind of Morton, that all his wishes pointed solely towards England.

Four months were already elapsed, and he was still at Bruges ; from hence he had kept up a constant correspondence with D—, who from time

time to time had sent him some trifling supplies of money, when he received the joyous news that he might now go back to England in safety ; as his family had succeeded in the negociation with the bank, for that purpose Thus what neither the signature of all the governors, nor the very word of the sovereign himself could have accomplished, was instantly effected by a simple letter from his perfidious correspondent.

Full of a blind confidence in his deliverer and benefactor, who had desired him to return immediately, he arrives in London, and is arrested ; the prosecution is immediately commenced, D— receives the reward of his treachery, and Morton was executed in a few days after.

E N D O F V O L. I.



